



Jordan Times

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U.S. to launch Somalia operation

MOMBASA (AP) — The United States prepared Tuesday to launch an airlift to starving Somalis within 48 hours, the start of a massive operation to deliver 145,000 tonnes of food in 60 days. As an advance U.S. military team began laying the groundwork for the airlift, some aid agencies expressed concern the ambitious American operation could create security and distribution problems. U.S. Marine Brigadier General Frank Libutti said he hoped the first plane load of food would leave this Indian Ocean port city on Thursday for Wajir in northeastern Kenya. From Wajir, the food will be trucked to the nearly 400,000 people living in camps run by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees along Kenya's border. The general, who leads a 34-member advance military team, told reporters the operation would involve three C-141s, and eight smaller C-130 Hercules cargo planes. Two planes arrived Tuesday and the rest are expected in Mombasa by the end of the week. About 100 U.S. servicemen and women will eventually be involved. When the airlift begins in a week to 10 days, Mr. Libutti said, the planes will carry only communications gear and light arms.

No use talking to Qadhafi — Libyan paper

NICOSIA (R) — The United Nations is wasting its time talking to Muammar Qadhafi about Libya's crisis with the West over airline bombing, a Libyan newspaper said on Tuesday. "Anyone who wants to... solve problems should approach the constitutional channels directly," Al Jamahiriya commented on a recent visit by U.N. envoy Vladimir Petrovsky. "You (the U.N.) are trying to insult the Libyan people with your useless ways." Mr. Petrovsky delivered a letter to Colonel Qadhafi as part of continued attempts to get Libya to comply with Security Council demands for the surrender of two men accused of bombing a Pan Am Airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Al Jamahiriya's commentary, reported by the state-run news agency IANA, said the United Nations was taking the wrong approach. "We have never heard that the Security Council addressed a letter to (queen) Elizabeth (of Britain)," the paper said. "He (Col. Qadhafi) enjoys neither political nor constitutional powers. He is neither a president, nor a king nor a prime minister," it said, basing its argument on the theory that political power in Libya is directly exercised by the masses through "people's congresses."

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Islamists retain Madaba seat; tribalism prevails in Qweismeh

Mohammad Khreibat and Anwar Al Hadid elected to Lower House

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The powerful Muslim Brotherhood won the vacant Sixth District seat in the Lower House in Tuesday's by-elections, but came third in the race for the Fourth District seat, which was won by a tribal candidate, provisional results showed.

The Brotherhood's Mohammad Khreibat captured 8,007 votes to win the Sixth District seat — Madaba — to beat former government official Fawaz Abu Ghanem with a margin of 1,480 votes and leftist Abdul

Hafith Shakhaneh with a margin of 1,556 votes.

The Islamic movement fell to third place in the Fourth District — Qweismeh — where tribal candidate Mohammad Anwar Al Hadid won with a total of 3,745 votes.

Mr. Hadid's closest rival, Minister Abu Zeid, also a tribal candidate, won 3,495 votes while the Brotherhood's Hani Al Tahrawi secured 3,307, according to unofficial results obtained by the Jordan Times.

The Fourth District seat fell

(Continued on page 5)

Police disperse rioters

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

MADABA — Police used tear gas Tuesday evening to disperse rioters who stoned the district governor's offices in protest against a decision to extend by two hours balloting in the by-elections in this town 20 kilometres south of Amman, eyewitnesses said.

Rioters, estimated at around 200, threw stones at the building, smashing its windows and those of parked cars before police intervened, the witnesses said. No immediate reports of injuries or arrests were available.

Following the riots, the extended polling time was reduced to 45 minutes.

According to various reports, the protesters were supporters of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammad Azaidh, who believed that the extension was

(Continued on page 5)

Sharif Zeid pledges continued fair approach

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday visited the Fourth and Sixth districts where by-elections to the Lower House were underway and urged all citizens to cast their votes and participate in the elections.

"Participation in Parliament elections is not only a right guaranteed by the Constitution but also a national duty which reflects a positive tendency towards making the democratic process a success," Sharif Zeid said.

The turnout of voters to cast ballots in the two districts demonstrates the citizens' faith in the integrity of the elections and belief in their role in the democratic process," he said.

"Our excellent experiment in the 1989 general elections contributed to a large extent towards laying a strong foundation of mutual confidence between the citizens and the government because the elections were free and fair and well-organised, providing a genuine democratic atmosphere," Sharif Zeid added.

The prime minister said that the fair and free approach would characterise the next general elections, scheduled for 1993.

Sharif Zeid first visited the Fourth District, where seven candidates were contesting for one seat that fell vacant with the death of Minister Al Hadid. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the total number of registered voters in the district was 35,834.

It said 68 ballot boxes were assigned to the district; 33 of them were for female voters.

The prime minister was briefed on the voting process and was assured that it was running without any problems.

The prime minister then visited the Sixth District, where three candidates were contesting the other vacant seat that fell vacant with the death of Ahmad Qteish Al Azaidh.

Sharif Zeid was briefed by officials about the voting process and arrangements at the polling centres.

King arrives at Mayo Clinic

ROCHESTER, Minnesota (Ageoci) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived at a leading U.S. clinic Monday night for treatment of a urinary tract haemorrhage.

King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor flew to Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport and were driven 150 kilometres south to the Mayo Clinic here.

Hospital spokesman Chris Gade said the King was to undergo tests and evaluations Tuesday.

The 56-year-old monarch was admitted to a hospital in Amman on Saturday to treat a minor haemorrhage in his urinary tract.

"I think things are much better than they were a couple of days ago," the King said on Monday as he left Amman for the United States.

"I had been found that it is important for me... to have some more specialised attention in terms of investigation," he told reporters.

The Mayo Clinic is one of the largest and most prestigious in the world, with more than 1,000 doctors. It is the clinic where former U.S. President Ronald Reagan receives his annual physicals, the last of which was last week.



Jordan, Palestinians hold talks ahead of today's Damascus meeting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials Tuesday discussed the latest development in Middle East peace process, including the American decision to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees and other issues.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker headed the Jordanian side to the talks while Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Farouk Kaddoumi headed the Palestinian side.

The meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, dealt with "issues which will be discussed in a meeting of the Arab participants in the Middle East peace process to be held in Damascus Wednesday," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Damascus meeting, the agency said, aims at "coordinating Arab stands ahead of the (Aug. 24) Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington and (in view of) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the U.S." during which President George Bush agreed to grant Israel the loan guarantees.

Both sides to Tuesday's meeting in Amman emphasised "the importance of exchanging land for peace as the basis for any settlement in the Middle East and



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (left) Tuesday confers with Palestinian leaders Farouk Kaddoumi (second from left) and Yasser Arafat (right) in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber (Petra photo)

well as the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

Following the talks, Dr. Abu Jaber was non-committal in comments to the press on prospects that the Aug. 24 bilateral could be delayed.

He said the talks would be held in Washington next Monday as scheduled and that Jordan had no formal information about any change of the date.

Palestinians, arguing that Washington has agreed to grant the \$10 billion in loan guarantees

(Continued on page 5)

Republicans turn heat on Clinton

GOP adopts strong pro-Israel platform

HOUSTON (Agencies) — Republicans on Tuesday tried to steer voter wrath from President George Bush to the Democratic-controlled Congress and use their convention to portray Bill Clinton as a failed governor and foreign policy novice.

With Mr. Bush trailing in the polls and espousing a loosely defined second-term agenda, there was much work to be done.

"What we need now is a good cavalry charge and that's what we've got to begin at this convention," said Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, the scheduled keynote speaker. "We've got to pull out our sabers, spur our horses and head out for the wagon train hoping we get there on time. I believe we're going to."

Democrats wasted no time responding to Republican attacks.

Mr. Clinton, the Democratic Party challenger, mocked the Republicans opening night message, saying it added up to: "We will discover America in our fourth term" — sort of a Columbus theory of politics. "We had to do all this other stuff, but give us a fourth term and we'll discover America."

Democrats also unveiled two new television ads suggesting the Republicans were not worth believing, both ending with the refrain, "those are the facts, it's the show."

Mr. Bush arrived in Houston on Monday for his second coronation as Republican standard-bearer and immediately joined the anti-Congress chorus. At a welcoming rally, he rebuked the Democratic leadership as the "sultans of the status quo."

On the Middle East, the Republican Party voted to adopt a strongly pro-Israel Middle East platform which praises President Bush's leadership in the peace process and pledges "to broaden and deepen the strategic relationship" between the two countries in the future.

The platform opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state or "any political entity that would jeopardize Israel's life." It also calls for Jerusalem to remain "undivided" and says that "no genuine peace would deny Jews the right to live anywhere in the special city."

"Prospects for peace have been transformed by the determined statesmanship of George Bush," according to the platform, which

(Continued on page 5)

Talks continue in Syria on Lebanon election crisis



Rashid Solh

Most Christians, including Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, believe the elections can never be fair if it is held while Syria maintains troops in and around Beirut.

The Christians fear a new assembly will scrap the existing political system, abolish the confessionalism which reserves the presidency for the Christians and seek unity with Syria.

Tammam Salam, the first Muslim candidate to withdraw, is a Sunni. He called for delay and urged the government to work for Muslim-Christian unity.

The five Christian deputies who met Mr. Hrawi said: "The measures accompanying the electoral operations threaten the national unity... and the march of reconciliation."

"We ask you to call for an extraordinary cabinet session to look into suspending the electoral operations until more appropriate means are available to improve the circumstances."

Opponents of the elections include the Falange Party, Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, followers of exiled General Michel Aoun, the National Liberal Party of Dori Chamoun and the National Bloc of self-exiled Deputy Raymond Edde.

The European Community (EC) called on Tuesday for the election to be free and fair, saying that only a fully representative government could restore national and international confidence.

The EC, in a statement issued by Britain as current president, reaffirmed support for Lebanon's "independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity."

"The community and its member states believe that only through fair and free elections, resulting in fully representative institutions, can national and international confidence in Lebanon be fully restored," the statement said.

Allies prepare to limit Iraqi options; U.N. experts end visit

Combined agency dispatches

U.N. WEAPONS inspectors left Iraq on Tuesday with important information on ballistic missiles, as the Western allies pressured Baghdad on another element of the Gulf war ceasefire — its treatment of Shiite Muslims.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas confirmed Tuesday that the Western allies would try to protect Iraq's Shiite Muslims by forbidding Iraqi military flights over Shiite territory.

On Monday, Bush administration officials said the United States and its allies were preparing to protect Shiites with an aerial umbrella and threaten Baghdad with force unless it halts attacks on them.

Allied units established havens in northern Iraq last year for Kurdish separatists whose post-war rebellion was crushed by Iraqi forces. Under international protection, the Kurds in northern Iraq have declared autonomy from Baghdad.

A Western diplomat at the United Nations said the United States and other countries were

discussing issuing an ultimatum to Iraq. Stop terrorising Shiites or face a military strike. The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ultimatum could be presented to Iraq later this week.

The plan by the allies to enforce a "no-fly" zone for Iraqi military aircraft south of the 32nd Parallel would put more than half of Iraq out of the reach of Iraq's helicopter gunships and warplanes.

Diplomats said it would amount to the biggest single blow to the Baghdad government's ability to control Iraq since an aircraft exclusion zone was declared north of the 36th Parallel in March last year.

But they added that even after the Gulf war in February last year and two years of U.N. sanctions, the Iraqi army and security services still had the strength to hold down the south.

Iraqi opposition leaders said they had received assurances that Washington would do everything it can to stop the Iraqi army from attacking tens of thousands of Shiite rebels in the southern marshes.

Al Iraq, a leading government newspaper, on Tuesday called the focus on the Shiites an attempt to "prologue the U.N. economic sanctions and to continue the aggression against Iraq."

The U.N. weapons team had planned a surprise inspection of an Iraqi military ministry in Baghdad but postponed it after a weekend New York Times article depicted the visit as orchestrated by the United States to provoke Iraq, the Times, the Washington Post and ABC-TV reported.

The Times had reported the U.N. team would try to inspect the Ministry of Military Industrialisation and that Washington was ready to bomb ministries if the team were rebuffed, as had been anticipated.

The inspectors, who under the Gulf war ceasefire are to oversee the demolition of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, did not wish to appear manipulated by the United States, the media reports said.

(Continued on page 5)

New peace bid launched as violence rages in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — The government said Tuesday its forces fought off dissident rebels who tried to overrun a strategic outpost in the southern suburbs but fighting continued elsewhere in the capital.

A peace mission of Mujahadeen delegates left for Kabul Tuesday.

The 15-man peace team, sent by Nangarhar Province Governor Abdul Qader, aims to talk to the Hezb-e-Islami and the coalition government, rivals in nearly two weeks of fierce fighting around Kabul that has left hundreds dead and forced tens of thousands to flee the city.

The team includes representatives of the two main warring parties, Jamiat-e-Islami and the Hezb, Afghan Islamic Press reported from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

If one party does not agree to the ceasefire, "we will then support the other party which agrees," it quoted Mr. Qader as saying.

Fighting raged on Tuesday in the battered capital, which has been without water or electricity for a week, and Hezb rockets hit the palace of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the French and Turkish embassies.

U.N. sources voiced concern at

the plight of foreign diplomats trapped in the besieged city. Many want to leave but are awaiting guarantees for their safe evacuation.

The government retaliated on Tuesday, sending MIG jets and SU-22 bombers to attack a Hezb-controlled airport in the western town of Shindand, Mujahadeen sources said.

No Hezb planes were hit in the raid and the extent of damage to the runway was unknown, the sources said.

Government jets also bombed strategic Tapa Taj Bik hill, captured by Hezb fighters after a night of street fighting on Monday, they said.

Hezb-e-Islami fighters tried to storm a strategic outpost in southern Kabul on Monday and claimed they had captured it but government troops still occupied it Tuesday. Defence Ministry sources said the fighters belonging to the fundamentalist Islamic group had been pushed back.

"The will probably try again tonight but we are ready for them," said Abdul Ghian, a local commander of government forces.

Two weeks of shelling by Hezb-e-Islami, led by Gulbuddin

(Continued on page 5)

Settlers asked to repay millions

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has asked Jewish settlers to repay 5.5 million shekels (\$2.3 million) in interest-free loans from the previous government to buy Arab homes in East Jerusalem, Israel Radio said Tuesday.

The move came after a liberal legislator charged the settlers were unfairly given money from a government mortgage fund for needy people.

It was the latest step by the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to thwart the Jewish settlement drive in the Muslim and Christian quarters of Jerusalem's Old City.

Israel Radio reported Tuesday that the finance ministry has given the settler group Ateret Cohanim 10 days to repay the loans.

Finance ministry officials confirmed efforts were under way to retrieve the government's money, but referred all questions to the mortgage bank handling the

(Continued on page 5)

Study reports 'inhuman' conditions in Israeli jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Human rights groups accused Israel on Tuesday of denying Palestinian prisoners medical treatment and maintaining "inhuman" conditions at prisons throughout the occupied territories.

In a study of the Hebron prison in the West Bank, the Israeli Alternative Information Centre and the Palestinian Mandela Institute said prisoners complained of little medical care, poor food, filthy living conditions and excessive restrictions on movement.

"Up to now, the focus of attention was on torture. The time has come to turn the spotlight to the appalling conditions at the prison," said Tikva Honig-Parnass, co-author of the study entitled "Hebron Prison — A View from Inside."

"In Hebron we do not find even the minimum physical, medical and social conditions required to guarantee the well-being and personal dignity of the prisoners," the report said.

"Instead the opposite is true: Inhuman conditions, aggravating the punishment already decided upon by the courts, are maintained in order to ruin the prisoners' health and break their spirits."

Shulamit Meiri, spokeswoman for the Israeli prisons authority, denied the charges and said inmates had made no complaints during a recent visit by the commissioner of the prisons service.

The report, compiled from accounts by seven of the 438 prisoners held in the prison, said medical services had refused to

give treatment unless prisoners agreed to cooperate with the prison administration.

It said no doctor was permanently assigned to the prison and medicals usually offered prisoners pain relief pills only.

Earlier this year a Palestinian died during questioning at the general security services section of the Hebron prison, one of seven in the occupied West Bank. Israeli newspapers reported torture at the prison was routine.

Two Palestinians cousins suspected of collaborating with Israel were killed by other Arabs in the West Bank, Palestinian sources said on Tuesday.

The bodies of the two, identified as Tawfik Ikmal, 50, and Ibrahim Ikmal, 30, were found together on Monday in an olive grove in the West Bank town of Qabatia.

Palestinians said the men were cousins who belonged to a large, prominent clan in Qabatia.

Seven members of the clan have been killed as collaborators since the start of the Palestinian uprising to December 1987, Palestinian sources said.

Five other clan members were shot dead by soldiers during the revolt, they said.

Another family member, Ahmad Awad Ikmal, allegedly heads the Black Panthers, a Palestinian group linked to the mainstream Fatah faction.

One branch of the family is active in the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, a group vying for leadership of the uprising, Palestinians said.

Study reports 'inhuman' conditions in Israeli jail

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez held talks in Syria on Tuesday, the second consecutive day the two countries have held high-level consultation amid political crisis over planned elections in Lebanon.

Diplomats and officials said his discussions also dealt with the Arab-Israeli peace talks and a meeting of Arab foreign ministers due to start in Damascus on Wednesday.

Mr. Bouez is among senior Christian politicians who usually back Syria's dominant role in Lebanese affairs but who have now joined a campaign by Christian parties to delay elections until Syrian troops pull back from Beirut.

His talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa followed a visit to Damascus the previous day by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Solh.

Mr. Solh discussed the elec-

tions, planned for Aug. 23, with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, an expert on Lebanon.

Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has some 40,000 troops under an Arab League mandate, has backed the holding of polls as planned.

Ten Christian candidates and a Muslim withdrew from the race, Monday.

Five leading Christian deputies in the old pre-war parliament, including Mr. Bouez, met Mr. Hrawi on Monday to appeal for postponement.

Political sources said they too threatened to withdraw. Mr. Hrawi, also a Christian, told them their appeal would be referred to a cabinet session on Wednesday.

Sources said the withdrawals were threatening to turn into a stampede that could leave some seats in the new parliament empty — discrediting a vital stage in

the recovery from civil war.

"The country is at its most critical stage in two years. What is at stake here is not only the elections, it is the peace pact and the Syrian role in Lebanon," a pro-Syrian source told Reuters.

Algeria leader offers dialogue with opposition.

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian head of state Ali Kafi has proposed a dialogue with the opposition next month to seek ways of getting out of the country's political crisis after months of violence, the press reported on Tuesday.

"Ali Kafi announced the start of a dialogue with the parties next month to hammer out a national consensus on a patriotic programme," the daily *Essalam* said in a report of a briefing he gave to the press on Monday.

It was Mr. Kafi's first meeting with local journalists since being nominated head of state on July 2 to replace Mohammed Boudiaf shot dead by a soldier on June 29.

The High State Council or joint presidency chaired by Mr. Kafi is due to draft the framework for the dialogue at a meeting next Sunday, the paper said.

Mr. Kafi told reporters multi-party democracy was an irreversible option. But he said he would prefer fewer parties. Some 60 political groups have registered since a multi-party system was instituted in 1989.

It appeared his proposal was not addressed to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), but to groups like the former ruling party National Liberation Front (FLN), the Socialist Forces Front (FIS) led by Hocine Ait Ahmed, and parties led by former President Ahmad Ben Bella and ex-Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah and the FIS's Islamic rivals.

The FIS is suspected of being responsible for a wave of violence that has swept Algeria since a state of emergency was proclaimed in February after the can-

cellation of elections the Islamic fundamentalist party was poised to win.

Musa starts talks

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa conferred in Algiers on Tuesday with Mr. Kafi at the start of a two-day visit, *Algerie Presse Service* (APS) reported.

He was also due to have talks with his Algerian counterpart Lakhdar Brahimi to discuss bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and the next summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Egyptian Television on Tuesday reported Mr. Musa as saying Middle East peace talks should start as soon as possible to determine whether a change of government in Israel means a change of attitude to the peace process.

Speaking during a stopover in Paris en route for Algiers, Mr. Musa commented on reports that Israel's Arab partners in the peace talks may seek to delay the next round set for Washington on Aug. 24.

"The decision to delay bilateral negotiations with Israel is up to the four (Arab) negotiating sides," the television quoted Mr. Musa as saying. But he made clear Egypt was against delay.

"The Israeli teams should be given the opportunity to prove to us and to the world that there is something new, a new attitude," he added.

Algerian-Egyptian relations appear to have been consolidated by common concern over the rise of Islamic fundamentalist movements in their countries.

U.S. offers own troops to be posted in Golan

TEL AVIV (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has proposed to Israel and Syria that American troops serve on the occupied Golan Heights as part of a future peace treaty, an Israeli newspaper said on Tuesday.

"The U.S. is expecting Syria's response to its proposal to station American troops on certain areas of the Golan in the context of a peace arrangement, which would include returning sovereignty of the heights to its hands," the independent *Haaretz* reported.

It said Mr. Baker made the proposal to new Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during Mr. Baker's July Middle East visit.

But the paper said Israel, pending reaction from Damascus, has decided not to bring up the proposal during the next round of Middle East peace talks, set to resume in Washington on Aug. 24.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari refused to confirm or deny the report.

"The place for discussing all topics related to the peace negotiations is in the talks themselves," he told Reuters.

Israel Radin said in the upcoming talks Israel will offer Syria an "interim agreement which will include territorial compromise" in exchange for Syria upgrading ties with Israel.

Mr. Ben-Ari denied the radio statement.

Israel occupied the strategic plateau in the 1967 Middle East war. During the election campaign Mr. Rabin told Golan Jewish settlers "border adjustments of a few kilometres" could be offered to Syria in exchange for a peace treaty.

Syria has formally been at war with Israel since the Jewish state's founding in 1948, but signed a separation-of-forces agreement between the two countries after the 1973 Middle East war, and has joined Israeli negotiators in five rounds of U.S.-brokered peace talks launched in Madrid last October.

Mr. Baker, who shepherded the talks in 10 trips to Israel since the Gulf war as secretary of state, resigned last week to run President George Bush's re-election campaign.

The paper said Mr. Baker first made the troop offer early in the talks in hardline ex-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose Likud Party was crushed by Mr. Rabin's Labour in a June election.

Golan settler leaders, reacting to the reports, strongly rejected territorial compromise as part of an eventual settlement.

"We will aggressively oppose any settlement entailing a territorial concession on the Golan," three leaders wrote in a telegram sent to Mr. Rabin.

They are mean. They were wounded in the fight against Assad, promised the earth, but have found themselves homeless in the dirt," said Steve Tomlin, relief coordinator for the American Charity International Medical Corps.

Mr. Tomlin and aid relief workers say this group are desperate and have no qualms over shooting to kill for the most meagre scraps of food or goods that can be traded for money.

"In many ways, they are symbols of Mogadishu today." The cripples and the other forgotten helpless of this bombed-out, ruined capital where only the gun now rules see aid organisations bringing in food for dying babies, but not for them. "They are a very bitter group and very, very dangerous."

Sitting in his wheelchair in the shade of a rusty, battered container, near the blocked-off entrance to the quayside, Mahad Adan, a 20-year-old member of the gang, told Reuters he lost his leg in the battle to oust Mr. Siad Barre.

"It was two years ago," he said, an AK-47 lying menacingly across his lap. "Now, I have nothing," he added.

The three main security groups, totalling about 900 men, rotate patrolling of different sections of the port.

"The Hashaamud are the worst, but every day it is bad," said one aid worker trying to organise the unloading of food. Aid organisations have to pay the guards to protect the cargo as it comes off the boats and on to trucks that are supposed to take it to nearby feeding centres.

Virtually every day, someone is shot in a squabble over a loose bag or a quarrel over payment. One day this week, at least 10 people died when teenage gunmen, in a vehicle with the roof sawn off and an anti-aircraft gun bolted on to the back, tried to stop another group entering.

"It's incredible... you just can't tell what is going to happen. One moment it's quiet, next all hell has broken loose and a few people are dead," said Ian Cameron, a worker with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Aid organisations say everything has to be negotiated time and time again as agreements constantly break down. Food cannot be stored in warehouses or it will be looted.

"The port is an extremely volatile and unpredictable place. Our priority must be to get it sorted out, it is the most important facility for getting food into Somalia," said Ian Macleod of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Into this surreal maelstrom of violence, the U.N. has agreed to send 500 armed Pakistani troops. Their mission is to control the port and escort food convoys to distribution centres where scores of children die each day.



FALASHAS STAGE PROTEST. Ethiopian immigrants to Israel, known as Falashas, stage a march in Israel Monday demanding proper housing.

Crippled gunmen await U.N. troops in Somali port

MOGADISHU (R) — The port of Mogadishu ranks as one of the most dangerous corners of a dangerous city.

Attracted by its high revenue-earning potential in a land of nothing, gangs of teenage gunmen and crippled former soldiers hang around in the hope of easy pickings as boats arrive to discharge food to Somalia's starving people.

The port is nominally controlled by three groups — the port police of the former regime of fallen dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, fighters linked to Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aided, and the Hashaamud — a mixed group of gunmen from a variety of clans.

But a number of freelance gunmen and gangs lie in wait on the fringes — human scavengers waiting for a chance to pounce.

The most notorious and feared of these is a group of cripples, at least 50 strong, who live together to one side of the port compound in a village of abandoned shipping containers.

Most are fighters who lost limbs in the battle to depose Mr. Siad Barre and have now been forgotten in a country that has since dissolved into murderous anarchy.

"They are mean. They were wounded in the fight against Siad, promised the earth, but have found themselves homeless in the dirt," said Steve Tomlin, relief coordinator for the American Charity International Medical Corps.

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Iraq says grain, date harvests delayed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Monday wheat and barley harvests had been delayed by a shortage of farm equipment caused by U.N. sanctions and the date harvest was also late.

But Deputy Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Abdul Sattar Al Duleimi told Reuters his ministry still forecast grain yields would be higher than 1991's, which were the lowest in a decade.

Harvesting is usually in March and May in the south and May and June in the north. Mr. Duleimi said it was still being completed in the north and parts of central Iraq.

United Nations experts have said they expect the harvest to be worse than 1991.

"The (grain) harvest was delayed," Mr. Duleimi, adding this was the result of United Nations sanctions, which stopped Iraq importing modern combine harvesters, while old harvesters had broken down and spare parts were not available for them.

"We have been moving harvesters between provinces but this meant they were working long hours so some were damaged and put out of order because of the lack of spare parts," he said.

U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 ban imports of everything except food and medical supplies.

Asked how yields so far compared to 1991, Mr. Duleimi said: "Generally our prediction this year is better than last year's."

He said he could not give exact figures as officials relied on how much was sold to government silos and this had not been completed. Iraq barred private wheat and barley trading in May.

The ministry gave farmers a two-week deadline last week to hand over stores of grain to government silos or face severe punishments as part of Baghdad's drive to fight food shortages.

Iraq needs almost three million tonnes of wheat a year for a rationing system which provides about half the basic needs of every Iraqi.

Trade ministry officials had said the area growing grain had doubled from 1991 but Duleimi said it was "almost the same."

Official 1991 figures put the wheat harvest at 525,000 tonnes and barley at 520,000 tonnes.

Many farmers failed to plant during the Gulf war and its aftermath disrupted cultivation and harvesting.

"It's a natural state of affairs in a country that has been fought by 30 states and been hit by sanctions imposed by the United Nations," Mr. Duleimi said.

"There are also shortages of insecticides, fertilisers and other essentials for agriculture and things are getting worse than last year," he added.

He said dates, Iraq's second largest foreign currency earner after oil before sanctions were imposed, were being gathered about three weeks later than usual because of changing weather.

The harvest was also late last year, Mr. Duleimi said he had no estimates for its size this year or last.

"Dates are ripe in the southern city of Basra now and it will take them about a month to become ripe in the centre of the country," he added.

Dates are the mainstay of Iraqi agriculture and a staple part of the Iraqi diet. The best harvest was 519,000 tonnes in 1980 but yields have since declined to less than half that.

Iraqi officials say large numbers of date palms were uprooted in the Gulf war. Many more were destroyed during a rebellion by Shiite Muslims in the south after the war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

No alert for French Mideast warplanes

PARIS (R) — France wants Iraq to fully comply with United Nations resolutions but has not placed its warplanes in the Middle East on alert, French officials said on Monday. Asked about reports of rising tension over Iraq's resistance to comply, a foreign ministry official said: "It would be unacceptable for Iraq to dodge its obligations." But a defence ministry official said France's warplanes in the region had not been placed in any particular state of alert. U.S. officials have said an air exclusion zone over southern Iraq would soon be declared by Iraqi troops. Diplomatic sources said the three allies were keeping in close touch in the current tension. But the sources said they had no knowledge that any precise action was being planned. France has eight Mirage F1CR fighters and a refuelling aircraft based at Incirlik in Turkey to protect Shiites from attacks by Iraqi troops. Diplomatic sources said the three allies were keeping in close touch in the current tension. But the sources said they had no knowledge that any precise action was being planned. France has eight Mirage F1CR fighters and a refuelling aircraft based at Incirlik in Turkey to protect Shiites from attacks by Iraqi troops. Diplomatic sources said the three allies were keeping in close touch in the current tension. But the sources said they had no knowledge that any precise action was being planned. France has eight Mirage F1CR fighters and a refuelling aircraft based at Incirlik in Turkey to protect Shiites from attacks by Iraqi troops.

Separatists kill three in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's separatist Kurdish rebels killed three villagers in attacks on Monday, the Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday. Rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) killed two villagers on Monday and wounded six others including two children, near Cermik town in Diyarbakir province when they ambushed a tractor. In a separate attack they killed a man and wounded another in the eastern province of Agri, the agency reported. The incidents bring to 18, the death toll in Kurdish-linked violence since Saturday, the eighth anniversary of the start of PKK's campaign for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey. Nearly 4,400 people have been killed there since it began.

Britain presses Iraq on jailed Briton

LONDON (AP) — Britain is pressing Iraq to find out how a British man, who disappeared from Kuwait nine weeks ago, ended up in a Baghdad prison, the Foreign Office said Tuesday. Paul Ride, 33, was last seen on June 28 leaving his northern Kuwait office at Taylor International, a British catering firm, said a Foreign Office spokesman, who was not identified. Iraq has confirmed that Mr. Ride is being held but has given no details of what charges he faces or how he was arrested, the spokesman said. Mr. Ride was visited over the weekend by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Foreign Office said. "He's alive and well, that's all we know," said Mr. Ride's wife, Julie. Mrs. Ride said her husband had almost finished his contract with the catering firm and was looking forward to returning to his home in north London.

Brutality probe begins in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot former judge, George Stavrinakis, head of an official probe into allegations of police brutality, began a new inquiry on Tuesday, a week after his predecessor resigned. Akis Papasavvas resigned after Interior Minister Christodoulos Veniaminist don't on a complaint by a man who said he was tortured after being briefly detained during investigations into a bank robbery. Two other men have since been arrested and charged with the robbery. Demosthenis Demosthenous of Pyrgos, Limassol, told the complaints council set up to investigate his complaint, he was hung upside down and beaten by five hooded men in the presence of two high-ranking police officers.

Roadside bomb kills 1 outside Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A bomb exploded in a car in a Christian village north of Beirut Tuesday and police said a German woman driver was killed instantaneously. A police spokesman said the bomb went off at 12:30 p.m. (0930 GMT) a few minutes after the woman switched on her Italian-made FIAT Uno car in the village of Ghadir, 16 kilometres northeast of Beirut. Ghadir is barely three kilometres north of Birkat, seat of Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir in the Christian heartland of Kersoun province. The spokesman identified the victim as Ghazi Helson, 29, and said she was married to a Lebanese identified as Ghassan Mustafa Habbas, 42, a Muslim. "The bomb was planted in the car, but we don't know yet how it was detonated," the spokesman said. He said the vehicle went in flames, and her husband was detained for questioning. He said their pair were married 18 months ago and jointly owned the High Noon Restaurant in the plush Mediterranean Christian township of Kaslik, just north of Beirut and worked for an unnamed German television organisation. The spokesman said the victim left home in her car to fetch milk for her seven-month-old daughter when she was killed.

Bush allows U.S. cargo flights to Lebanon

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — President George Bush on Monday lifted a ban on U.S. air cargo flights to Lebanon, the White House announced. The move "reflects the improved security conditions there," a White House official said. In 1985, all U.S. transportation services to Lebanon were prohibited because of the strife in that country. The announcement was made in Indianapolis, where Mr. Bush delivered a speech before going to Houston for the Republican national convention.

Group says Philippine women killed in Mideast

MANILA (R) — A Philippine human rights group gave details on Tuesday of three cases in which it said Filipino women working in the Middle East were abused and killed. The body of Margie Milante, who worked as a maid in Saudi Arabia, was shipped home in June with a stab wound, broken arm and teeth and signs of "We are not content with government pledges of aid — we want justice," Ms. Milante said at a news conference sponsored by the Kamlang (Refugee) Centre Foundation. A sobbing Faustina Sadaran said her daughter Vilma had told her she was raped by her employer while working as a maid in Bahrain. Vilma was reported to have committed suicide in November 1991. "But I don't believe she killed herself. She cannot do such a thing," Ms. Sadaran said. Rebecca Dimaculangan, who worked as a babysitter in Dubai, was apparently sexually abused, trussed up and strangled, the news conference was told. She was found dead two days after she disappeared in June. "If we can raise the issue internationally, we will," foundation leader Gina Melgar said. "We want organisations to look into the human rights situation in the Middle East." Philippine foreign affairs officials met the group and relatives of the alleged victims on Tuesday and promised a thorough investigation.

Arafat: Rabin is 'new monster'

KHARTOUM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is a sweet-tongued monster with a like his predecessor, is brutalising Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Yasser Arafat was quoted Tuesday as saying.

The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who arrived in Khartoum Monday night, told Sudan's official news agency Sana that Palestinians in the occupied territories will continue their fight against Israeli occupation.

The violent protests, which began in December 1987 under Mr. Rabin's predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, and countermeasures by the Israeli army have left 947 Palestinians and 98 Israelis dead. Another 616 Palestinians have been killed by unknown assailants

for alleged collaboration with Israeli authorities or for "moral crimes".

Sana quoted Mr. Arafat as saying he came to Sudan for consultations with its leaders "at this crucial time when we face Israel's new monster, who speaks a sugary language and carries on with brutal policies against Palestinian citizens."

He named neither Mr. Rabin nor his predecessor but his means of "terror".

Mr. Rabin has pledged to expedite peace talks with the Arabs and to curtail construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. His promises paid off last week President George Bush's approval of \$10 billion in loan guarantees to build

houses for Jewish immigrants. Mr. Shamir had been denied the guarantees for refusing to halt settlement construction in the occupied territories.

In the remarks distributed by Sana, Mr. Arafat said Mr. Bush's decision to extend the guarantees showed "total siding by the USA with the Rabin government."

PLO officials have suggested that Mr. Bush's action might delay resumption of Arab-Israel peace talks beyond the agreed Aug. 24 date.

Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Mr. Arafat, said Saturday in Cairo that Mr. Bush's action was "a step backward in the U.S. administration's position on the peace process."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Wednesday Forum
21:30 Man of the People
22:00 News in English
22:30 Say the Night

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:57 Sunrise (Sumro) Daba
12:39 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:22 Maghrib
20:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637825
St. Joseph Church Tel. 645950
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De in Sella Church Tel. 661757

Terramotta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 633624, 654952

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.

Mia./Max. temp. 19/31

Aqaba 25/37

Desert 18/35

Jordan Valley 24/38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Dehesh 791257
Dr. Tawfik Qabir 623029
Dr. Joseph Issa 785689
Dr. Nidal Issa 691011
First pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 782336
Al Asana pharmacy 637035
Naironk pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636736
Yacoubi pharmacy 644945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660

BURD:
Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker 637661
Al Shamsi pharmacy 637662

ZARQA:
Dr. Riyadh Al Bazzi 636381
Khalifah pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 192, 021111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 771111
Ambulance Municipality 771111
Complaints 691171
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 771111
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815015
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200

QUEEN ALIA INTL. AIRPORT 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813815/52
Khalid Maternity, J. Am. 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Am. 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Madhat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 664171/4
Shamsan Hospital 699131
University Hospital 64545
Al-Munawwar Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdull 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6
Isaiah, Abdull 775111/26
Al-Bashir, J. Abdull 691617/15
Army, Marik 667277/9
Queen Alia Hospital 602405/0
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/983323
Don Sam Hospital 09/983323
Al-Hussein Modern Hospital 09/983323
BURD:
Smeisani Basm Hospital 02/37555
Grack Catholic Hospital 02/37555
Rn Al-Natun Hospital 02/37555
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 06/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Ist community medicine course completed Committee to investigate cause of Sahab fire

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seventeen Jordanian doctors have completed the first community medicine course in the country, which offered specialised training in the control and prevention of infectious diseases, environmental and food hygiene, and other public health areas.

The course, which was sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), aimed at providing the Ministry of Health with specialised doctors, and strengthening its network of this specialty.

Training doctors in community medicine is part of the Kingdom's efforts to meet the WHO target of providing full health services to all citizens by 2000. Minister of Health Aref Bataineh told a graduation ceremony of the doctors Tuesday.

Dr. Bataineh told the ceremony that the graduates of the course, which started in October 1991, are entitled to sit for the first part of the Arab Board Examination, which is the highest Arab professional qualification in this field.

He thanked Queen Noor and



Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal Tuesday distributes certificates to Jordanian doctors who completed a course in community medicine (Petra photo).

Princess Ghida for their patronage of the ceremony and also thanked WHO and its regional director Hussein Gazairy for his support and assistance, noting that the Ministry of Health was striving to upgrade its health services in all regions and respond to all health needs to the community.

Dr. Gazairy, director of the East Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO, said community medicine was instrumental in promoting community health and combating infectious diseases. Dr. Abdul Munem Salah, director of Community Medicine Department at the Ministry of

Health, reviewed the various courses taken by the graduates. The course has theoretical and practical components and occupies one academic year. Lecturers and instructors were chosen carefully from a number of universities in the Middle East, including the University of Jordan, Jordan University of Science and Technology, the American University of Beirut, and the American University of Cairo, in addition to experts in this field from the Ministry of Health and from the Eastern Mediterranean region like Pakistan, Cyprus, Iran. Princess Ghida distributed diplomas to the 17 graduates.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) and the Public Security Department (PSD) have set up a joint committee to investigate the cause of the fire which gutted the main warehouse of the Fine Hygienic Co. Ltd. in Sahab Sunday morning.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the committee will start its work as soon as it has access to the warehouse where some chemical and raw materials occasionally flare up.

Owner of the company, Mr. Elias Nuqul said the CDD fire engines are continuing their work at the site of the burnt warehouse, putting out the remnants of the smoldering fire.

"We cannot give a clear or even rough estimate of the losses or the damage to the warehouse, which contained large amounts of raw materials and chemical substances used in the manufacture of the tissue paper," Mr. Nuqul told the Jordan Times.

He said that our company's accounts are trying to assess the situation and could give estimates in the coming few days.

Mr. Nuqul said that he hoped the CDD men will be able to

completely put out the remnants of the fire by Wednesday evening, when the assessment of damages could begin.

He said that the cause of the fire, which continued to rage with flames shooting up into the air from Sunday until mid Monday, is to be determined by the joint committee.

Mr. Nuqul and the CDD official confirmed that the great heat caused the collapse of the ceiling and the side walls over the burning materials are making it even more difficult to put out the remaining fire packets or to investigate its cause.

Nine people were overcome by the smoke and the heat as a result of the fire. They were treated at hospital and later discharged, CDD officials said.

They said that this could be the second largest fire in the Kingdom in two years.

Due to insufficient water supplies in the Sahab Industrial City region, the CDD had to get help from privately owned water tanker trucks and to seek the help of the fire engines at the municipal and the PSD.

Mr. Nuqul said firefighters could have more easily brought the fire under control if the area had sufficient water supplies.

Sharif Zeid discusses bilateral ties with Sudanese official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday received head of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly Mohammad Khalifeh in the presence of Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

During the meeting, which took place at the Prime Ministry, Sharif Zeid stressed the need for promoting Jordanian-Sudanese relations.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Khalifeh reviewed the democratisation process in Jordan and the difficulties Jordan has been facing since the break of the Gulf crisis. Sharif Zeid was briefed by the Sudanese envoy on the parliamentary experiment in Sudan and its benefits on the Sudanese people.

The meeting also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and stressed the need to work on healing rifts between Arab states and bolstering inter-Arab relations.

Mr. Khalifeh and a group of Sudanese officials arrived in Amman Saturday on a four-day visit to Jordan as part of a regional tour that will also take them to



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday confers with head of the Transitional National Assembly in Sudan Mohammad Khalifeh (second from right) in a meeting attended by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat (left) and Sudanese Ambassador to Amman Abdullah Gubara (Petra photo).

Iraq and Syria. During his stay, Mr. Khalifeh held talks with Jordanian officials on means of promoting bilateral ties and visited several places of cultural significance. Mr. Khalifeh is the second

member of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly to visit Jordan in the past two months. Hassan Hamdine, the secretary general of the assembly, visited Jordan last month.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Registration begins for Tafleeh elections

TAFILEH (Petra) — A committee entrusted with registering the names of citizens eligible to vote in Tafleeh municipal elections, which will be held Nov. 15, commenced its work Monday. Nominations for the election will start Nov. 7 and will continue for three days.

Trade delegation back from Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian trade delegation returned home Tuesday after a week long visit to Egypt during which it visited a number of industrial installations and met with representatives of Egyptian trade unions. Head of the delegation, external relations undersecretary of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions Jamil Abdul Rahim, said the team discussed with its Egyptian counterparts means of activating the role of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions. Mr. Rahim said the visit also focussed on labour relations and the possibility of sending Jordanian labour leaders to Egyptian universities to study professional disciplines.

Amman University celebrates anniversary of King's Accession to the Throne

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's Accession to the Throne, Amman Private University Monday organised a seminar on the modern history of Jordan. Speakers at the seminar included Muta University President Adnan Al Bakhit and Dr. Suhaila Al Rimawi of the History Department at the University of Jordan. Dr. Bakhit reviewed the historical development of Jordan and stressed that the Jordanian state started on a solid historical ground. This state which has its own administrative systems, institutions, mosques and hospitals had become an area of attraction for new inhabitants, he said. Dr. Rimawi lauded the role of King Hussein in building modern Jordan and reviewed the secret partition plans and conspiracies against the Arab region in the beginning of this century. She also dwelt on the role of the Hashemite family in resisting all such partition plans.

RCC hosts forum on Jordanian novel

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day cultural forum will be held at the Royal Culture Centre (RCC) on Saturday to discuss "the novel in Jordan," as compared to "Arab" novel. The forum, the first of its kind in the country, will be opened by Culture Minister Mahmoud Al Samra. The event, which will be held annually, will discuss a number of literary works, including the early and contemporary novel in Jordan and the Jordanian experience in the area of novel writing.

Mashaqbeh meets with family planning committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Amin Mashaqbeh Tuesday chaired a meeting for a national committee entrusted with planning for the International Family Year. Mr. Mashaqbeh stressed the need to prepare a strategy and a general policy to develop issues related to family planning and to hold contacts with any organisation specialised in this field. The committee was formed in the light of United Nations declaration of 1994 as an international year for family and in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Council of Arab Social Development Ministers.

Samra appointed chairman of JWU

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Education Council (HEC) has approved the appointment of Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Jordanian Women University (JWU). Dr. Al Samra will replace Dr. Mohammad Hamdan who had resigned after being appointed as president of the Zarqa University. The Higher Education Council also approved the appointment of Dr. Said Tall as vice chairman of the board of trustees of JWU.

New CCC branch in Jordan Valley

NORTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Sagoff decided Monday to open a branch for the Civil Consumers Corporation (CCC) in Al Masha'eh area in the Jordan Valley. The branch will be providing government employees in the area with food supplies and other items at subsidised prices.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Fayez Dweik at Alia Art Gallery.

IOM sets up shop in Amman to help emigrants

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international governmental agency is planning to set up a permanent office in Amman to offer services to potential emigrants and help resettle displaced people.

"Our services will be offered in close coordination with governments, but our activities do not mean encouraging emigration," said Antonios Sakiris, chief of the Amman mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

"We will provide help to potential emigrants in obtaining accurate information on emigration procedures, said Mr. Sakiris, a Greek national.

"No one will be obliged to come to us," he emphasised. "Ours is a purely voluntary service and those who would like to take advantage of it are welcome."

The presence of an authoritative, official agency in Amman is expected to help aspiring emigrants to escape the clutches of unscrupulous agents and so-called "migration offices" — some of which have been known to have cheated dozens with false information and unfulfilled promises at high prices.

IOM operates in various parts of the world with a mandate from its 46 member governments. It is

funded by contributions from its members.

Mr. Sakiris, who is serving as chief of the IOM mission in Amman since April 1991, said the services provided by the planned Amman office would include familiarising emigration applicants with the "social, cultural, psychological, emotional, legal and economic aspects of the country of reception to help the process of integration and assimilation." The services will also include language training and documentation.

Based on the information provided by the government of the country of reception, the IOM will be able to advise applicants whether they qualify for emigration or not, he said. "We will not hesitate to advise those who do not qualify not to waste their time and energy."

Mr. Sakiris stressed that the IOM would have no role in the actual process of application and approval or disapproval. "It is the responsibility of the concerned government alone," he said.

"We will help prepare the documentation and advise applicants on the rules and regulations. It is up to the applicant and the involved government to pursue the matter," he said.

The IOM will levy a "nominal" charge of \$50 per applicant for its services. This compares with several hundred dollars charged



Antonios Sakiris

by private sector agencies for "registration" only, not to mention the "services charges" of up to \$5,000 from successful emigration applicants.

The IOM also has standing arrangement with most international carriers for discounted rates and this is applicable to emigrants recommended by the organisation, Mr. Sakiris noted.

The Amman office, which Mr. Sakiris hopes will offer its services by October this year, will serve Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

The main countries that encourage qualified emigrants include Australia, Canada and New Zealand in addition to the United

Mu'ta University to help Royal Commission in restoring Muslim shrines

KARAK (J.T.) — A Royal Commission entrusted with restoring and renovating the shrines set up on the tombs of the companions of Prophet Mohammad will be cooperating with Mu'ta University in the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in implementing its work, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izz Eddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi said Tuesday.

The commission's work entails collecting historic and archaeological information about the shrines and the tombs and the surrounding areas before designs for restoration work can begin, said the minister during a visit to the tombs and shrines in the southern regions of Jordan.

Sheikh Tamimi is member of the Royal Commission formed in June by His Majesty King Hus-

sein. Commission members headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of transport Ali Suhaimat, inspected the area where the shrines are set up. The shrines and their surrounding lands, about 450 dunums are owned by the Ministry of Awqaf.

Sheikh Tamimi said that the visit aimed at acquainting the commission members with the area before commencing their task.

The restoration work will cover 12 shrines and tombs and the commission plans to set up premises that would serve as cultural and religious centres at each location, said the minister.

The companions of Prophet Mohammad had led the Islamic armies against the Byzantine forces in the Middle East region in the course of the Islamic fight against the foreign domination of the region.

Jordan, India to exchange views on peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Next week's visit to Jordan by Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Eduardo Faleiro is expected to boost bilateral relations and offer an opportunity for the two sides to exchange views on the Middle East peace process, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Faleiro, a leading member of the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi's Congress (I) Party, is expected to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and gain first-hand information on the course of the peace process, the sources said.

Mr. Faleiro, effectively in charge of India's foreign affairs in the absence of a full foreign minister, will be making his first visit as an Indian minister to Jordan.

He visited the Kingdom at the height of the Gulf crisis in 1990 as a member of the opposition in parliament and also travelled to Kuwait and Iraq.

The visit will be the first formal one by an Indian minister to Jordan after the Gulf crisis and

the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel earlier this year.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber are expected to hold talks with Mr. Faleiro.

India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates and related product. Its total purchases from the Kingdom during 1991 amounted to \$161 million.

According to an Indian Embassy source, "nothing is outstanding" in the field of commercial relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile the Indian ambassador-designate to Jordan, A.K. Budhiraja, has arrived in Amman to replace Ambassador Gajendra Singh who has taken up a new tour of duty in Ankara.

Before coming to Amman, Mr. Budhiraja served as India's ambassador to Kuwait and stayed in the emirate for the most part of the Gulf crisis.

Abu Hassar says industry growing despite hardships

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Khalid Abu Hassan Tuesday said Jordan had made great achievements, despite its limited natural resources, arable land and scarcity of water resources.

However, he said, such achievements were undermined by great pressures and fluctuations caused by the Israeli occupation of Arab territories international and regional conflicts.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the Gulf crisis, the latest of regional conflicts, to affect Jordan, had led to the forcible return of some 400,000 Jordanians from the countries of the Gulf, thus causing an additional pressure on the Jordanian infrastructure.

Addressing the evening session of the First Congress for Arab Scientists and Technologists, Abroad, Mr. Abu Hassan said, Jordan had succeeded in developing its industrial sector, despite all the foregoing circumstances.

He noted that there are 1550 industrial institutions in Jordan employing some 90,000 staff

members.

He said Jordanian industrial exports during 1991 amounted to JD 536 million, including JD 220 million for phosphates and potash and JD 316 million for other industries. He added that Jordanian industrial products are exported to 70 countries around the world. Mr. Abu Hassan pointed out that industrial production accounts for 22 per cent of Gross National Product.

Despite these achievements, Mr. Abu Hassan said, there are some obstacles facing Jordanian industry. These include the application of standard specifications and quality control, low level of productivity, insufficient machinery maintenance, insufficient packaging and marketing expertise and lack of innovation in product development, in addition to the shortage of technicians and highly skilled labourers.

Mr. Abu Hassan called for further enhancing cooperation between the industrial sector and Jordanian Arab scientists, saying that their contribution is vital to the advancement of industry in Jordan.

EMRO director visits development project

SOUTH SHOUNEH (J.T.) — Regional Director of the World Health Organisation's Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa (EMRO) Hussein Al Gezairi Tuesday visited Sweimeh village in South Shouneh district, where he inspected activities of the Quality of Life Development Project, carried out by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

Dr. Gezairi toured was briefed on projects being carried out under the umbrella of the Sweimeh project, such as fish ponds, white goat breeding, home gardening, model kitchens

and bathrooms and restoration of water springs.

NHF, in cooperation with WHO and the Health Ministry, is carrying out similar quality of life development projects in seven villages with a view to improving living conditions there through setting up income-generation projects.

The quality of life development project in Sweimeh was established at the direction of Her Majesty Queen Noor, following a visit she paid to Sweimeh in January 1988.

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Starvation for power

WITH HUNDREDS of thousands of Somalis projected to die from starvation and starvation-related diseases in the coming months, the conditions in that country are turning into yet another famine record-breaking situation in Africa. Ethiopia has already been the scene of unprecedented famine conditions that led to the death of hundreds of thousands of people. The horrific images emanating from Ethiopia in past years jolted the international community into belated action, and many countries and some international organisations eventually moved in to help. Then came the equally horrific pictures of literally hundreds of thousands of Somalis dying from hunger and malnutrition-related illnesses.

The scenes from Ethiopia had barely become faint when this similar catastrophe hit Somalia. In both countries the root causes of the mass death of people from starvation and deprivation are similar if not outright identical — irresponsible leaderships accentuated by lack of socio-economic and political development. Such dire and irresponsible political conditions have naturally brought about civil strife and carnage and intermingled with lack of economic development exacerbated by prolonged drought conditions ended up in bringing about the disasters that shocked the world when it befell Ethiopia a few years ago and shocked the same world even more when it erupted in neighbouring Somalia in more recent times.

The world must rise to the challenge and come to the rescue of the starving Somalis with all its might. There must be no procrastination in international efforts to provide the Somalis with the necessary food and medicines necessary to cover the size and dimensions of the problem. Both bilateral and multilateral campaigns need to be synchronised with a view to bringing effective and speedy assistance to Somalia. But such efforts alone can never address the problem that now is afflicting the Arab African country. Other developing countries could soon face the same fate unless they learn the basic lessons on how to govern themselves politically, socially and economically. There will otherwise be every justification for international and regional intervention along these lines in order to make sure that similar tragedies will not recur. If there is a valid cause for international humanitarian interventions in such needy countries, there is also an equal justification for bilateral and multilateral interventions to bring about a change of, above all, political climate in such countries. There is not much that can be done to alleviate the arid climate in Somalia, or Sudan or Ethiopia, except perhaps long-term economic planning which takes time and resources that may not be available now. But there is something that must be done right now: The two rival warlords, interim President Ali Mahdi Muhammad and General Mohammed Farrah Aidid, should be held internationally accountable for the existing conditions of their people. Very few political steps could contribute more towards ending the misery of the Somalis, if not materially then in symbolic terms and value. The lesson at least will not be lost on future political leaderships who are ready to forget about their people in order to gain and maintain power.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PRESIDENT BUSH is undertaking a cowardly act by launching new aggression on Iraq in order to ensure his reelection as president, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Launching a barbaric aggression on the Arab people can by no means be classified as a heroic action and is bound to fail, as will the president's quest to sit in the White House for another four years, the paper said. There is no heroism in sending in planes to raid Iraqi economic installations and kill innocent people who are exposed to starvation, said the daily. Such an act is tantamount to another one committed by America against the Vietnamese people, who defeated the U.S., and can only go down in history as an act of barbarism committed by the strongest nation on earth against a Third World nation, the paper continued. It seems, said the paper, that President Bush is seeking vengeance against his opponent Bill Clinton through the massacring of the Iraqi people and through further atrocities. The president, who is now face to face with defeat in the elections, looks pathetic as he is driving to commit further crimes at a time when the presidency seems out of his reach, the paper added. Mr. Bush, said the paper, is seeking glory over the bodies of old men and women, the sick and the children of Iraq which is still under an embargo and unjustly treated by the world community. It said that any heroism can only be attained through high morals and good acts for the benefit of mankind and not through brutalising other nations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday commented on an imminent meeting by the Arab countries involved in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to be held in Damascus. The meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, is bound to be critical as all these Arab countries have voiced concern over Washington's recent decision to grant Israel a \$10 billion loan guarantee, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that the Damascus meeting should be attended by officials at the highest level in view of the seriousness of the situation, especially as the sponsor of the negotiations has now gone back on its stand which considered the settlements, to be fuelled by the loan guarantees, as an obstacle to peace. The United States has called the Arabs for the peace conference on the basis of U.N. resolutions which call for the exchange of land for peace, but it seems now to have turned away from its declared position, giving support for Israel's settlement programme through the loan guarantees, said the writer. The meeting in Damascus has to discuss this important issue together with the ongoing Israeli campaign against Damascus and Israel's decision to impose self-rule on the Palestinians, depriving them of the right to a state of their own, said the writer. He said that the Damascus meeting should voice the Arab parties' clear stand and Arab protests against these developments through deeds rather than words, like suspending the peace negotiations and opening channels of dialogue aimed at restoring solidarity among the Arab states.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia — a start to reconciliation?

By Lial Graz

GENEVA — Relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia have rarely run smoothly since King Abdul Aziz swept Najran, Asir and Jizzan into his newly consolidated kingdom in the early 1930s. The Yemenis have, ever since, considered these as three "lost provinces." When Yemen was divided, the Saudis looked askance at both parts. The North, however, conservative its mores, had seen the victory of the republicans in the 1960s civil war, and its unstable and often violent anti-monarchism remained a constant thorn in the Saudi kingdom's flank. The South was not only a republic, but worse — from the Saudi point of view — the only avowedly Marxist Arab state.

Now, a first step towards reconciliation may have been taken in Geneva on July 20. The Yemeni foreign minister, Abdul Aziz Al Dali, and the Saudi minister of education, Abdul Aziz Al Khulayfi, considered a specialist in Yemeni affairs, met only once, but the ice seems to have been cracked. There were no formal statements, no communiques, but a second meeting is planned for early autumn. Even the Yemenis, who are in rather more of a hurry than their neighbours, concede that it will be a long-drawn-out process.

Three new factors have compounded difficulties. First, the unification of the two Yemens in May 1990 into the Republic of Yemen, with approximately 12 million inhabitants. The provisional constitution calls for elec-

tions by November 1992. The Yemeni government where southern and northerners have so far managed to cooperate surprisingly well, is really playing the game: political parties have grown up like mushrooms and freedom of the press is enthusiastically pursued by more than 120 publications. Saudi Arabia, which looked askance even at the mild democracy practiced in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion, is appalled by this bad example.

"The North, however conservative its mores, had seen the victory of the republicans in the 1960s' civil war, and its unstable and often violent anti-monarchism remained a constant thorn in the Saudi kingdom's flank."

The second reason for worsening relations has been the discovery, over the last few years, of sizeable oil reserves. Unification has made access to the bor-

der areas around Harib and Shabwa easier; it is possible that a good part of the newly discovered — or at least newly exploitable — oil in that sector is all part of the same large structure near Marib.

Other oil discoveries are being made with surprising frequency many very close to the unmarked border between former South Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Yemeni officials are confidently predicting oil exports of about 700,000 bpd by 1995.

Saudi Arabia has not greeted the prospect of its neighbour's future (and very relative, considering the size and population) prosperity with unmitigated joy. Prickly diplomatic notes have been passed about oil operations in border areas and several oil companies have been told, in no uncertain terms, to cease their operations there, or face retaliation in their dealings with the Saudis.

Considering the relative potential of reserves and commercial possibilities between the two countries, one can understand British Petroleum's decision to pack up its Yemeni operations for the time being. The French Elf (which was involved in the South even before unification) and Canadian Occidental are among those that have not let themselves be intimidated even though Elf has been under discreet pressure from its own government.

Consequences of the Gulf war

The third recent area of disagreement is related to Yemen's attitude during the Gulf crisis, or

at least to the Saudi perception of that attitude.

Yemenis insist that their country was strictly neutral, pointing out its quick condemnation of the Iraqi invasion and various efforts to persuade Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait.

The prime minister, Haider Abu Bakr Al Atlas, went to Baghdad several times, including a last-minute visit on January 15, 1991, when he pleaded with Saddam Hussein to accept the face-saving French initiative to withdraw before the bombing began.

"Saudi Arabia has not greeted the prospect of its neighbour's future prosperity with unmitigated joy."

For Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that was not enough. Not for that matter, for the U.S.; Washington has not forgotten, nor entirely forgiven, the cool reception accorded to James Baker when he came to Sanaa in November 1991. He delivered what to the Yemenis seemed too much like an ultimatum to join the coalition or face the consequences.

That there was some public sentiment in favour of Iraq can-

not be denied; republican sympathies, some resentment at Kuwaiti prosperity, even a long-standing relationship with Baathist Iraq, which had sent many teachers and trainers to North Yemen, all played a part. However, Yemen denies having ever been involved in sanctions-busting, if not from scruples, at least from lack of geographic possibilities.

The returning workers

During the months of the crisis, almost a million Yemenis returned home, mostly from Saudi Arabia; few of them were formally expelled, but the rules in Saudi Arabia had changed. Until then Yemenis had been the only foreign workers who neither needed to renew visas nor have a Saudi sponsor; many were self-employed.

At that changed in the autumn of 1991. It may well have been that the Saudis had been planning to reduce the number of Yemenis in any case and that the crisis only hastened the movement. Either way, those who returned were the least well-educated, the least fit to find a place in the Yemeni economy. Some could be reabsorbed into their villages, but as bad luck would have it, some rains made 1990-1991 one of the worst years in recent history for Yemeni farmers.

Besides losing the workers' remittances, Yemen lost its foreign aid, from Saudi Arabia, from Kuwait and the other Gulf countries and from the U.S. That

given by the Soviet Union had, of course, evaporated well before. Only the European Community has kept up payments, and even increased them, which has been particularly welcome with the influx of over 50,000 refugees from Somalia in recent months. Oman has tried to get the GCC countries to reconsider their help to Yemen, but so far only Qatar seems to be responsive.

The meetings inaugurated in Geneva, are ostensibly only about settling the land borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Although demarcating the border in the Rub' Al Khali seems the most urgent problem, the Yemenis are hoping to take up the long-festering sore of the "three lost provinces."

One bright note is that the long-drawn-out negotiations over the border between Yemen and Oman have finally been concluded and the Yemeni president, Ali Abdullah Salih has invited Sultan Qaboos to Sanaa for a festive treaty-signing within the next few weeks. Even before unification, Oman had become the strongest champion of Yemen in the GCC, and it has been trying hard to patch up the bad relations in the wake of the Gulf war.

However, the years required to negotiate what was really quite a simple border — with no oil or other particularly desirable objectives — provide a cautionary tale for those who are expecting magic results from these first encounters — Middle East international.

Attack on Iraq: Political risk for Bush

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

HOUSTON — President George Bush would be taking a giant political gamble if he ordered an attack on Iraq during the Republican convention, but there is precedent for such a bold foreign policy move.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson tried to help Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey overcome the burden of an unpopular war by halting the bombing of North Vietnam on the eve of that year's presidential election. The gambit was unsuccessful, and Richard Nixon went on to narrowly win the election. But four years later, Mr. Nixon used a similar manoeuvre in his race with Democrat George McGovern, launching peace talks with Hanoi on the eve of the balloting.

Mr. Nixon, an overwhelming favourite over McGovern even before the dramatic initiative, was reelected by a landslide.

Mr. Bush, a man who prides himself on his prudence, is said to have approved a plan that could provoke a confrontation with Baghdad as early as the first day of the convention that will nominate him for a second term.

A front-page report in the New York Times on Sunday said the confrontation would be over the U.N.'s rights to inspect Iraq's

most closely guarded ministry buildings.

The newspaper quoted some unidentified officials as saying that the timing seemed calculated to give Mr. Bush a boost at the four-day convention, which he hopes to use to jump-start his faltering reelection campaign.

Although a U.S.-led showdown with Saddam Hussein has been building for some time and would help Bush address a Gulf war liability — Saddam Hussein's survival in power — the political risks would be enormous.

While the country traditionally rallies around the president in times of crisis, Mr. Bush would expose himself to Democratic charges that he was sacrificing American lives to advance his own interest if there were U.S. casualties.

Mr. Bush, who is running far behind Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in the public opinion polls, would surely be reminded of his vow in a December 1991 interview with David Frost to do "whatever it takes" to prevail in the November 3 election.

"My personal opinion is to take political action against Saddam is not a plus for the president. I think it's a negative for the president because of the fact he could be accused, as he already has been, of getting politics in this," Senator Bob Smith said in a CNN interview.

But Mr. Smith, a New Hampshire Republican, said Saddam Hussein's defiance of Gulf war ceasefire terms had to be dealt with, "regardless of the political rhetoric and political charges and counter-charges."

"I think George Bush is going to do that. I think the American people will support him for being president and reacting to what he has to react to," he said.

Senator Phil Gramm, a conservative Texas Republican who is after the party's 1996 presidential nomination, said Iraq held the key to the possible escalation of the current war of nerves.

"Whether we have an incident, whether it occurs on Monday, or Thursday, or next year, is going to be determined not so much by the president, but by Iraq," Mr. Gramm said. "But the idea that the president is going to use his powers as commander in chief for political reasons is at variance with everything that George Bush has ever done."

Whatever the outcome, the convention-era uproar over the possibility of a resumption of the air war on Iraq showcases one of Bush's most valuable assets in his battle with Clinton — the power of incumbency.

Only a president can instantly command such attention — and only a president can explode a political bombshell at any time and change the course of public debate overnight.

FAIR: Racism against Arabs still widely acceptable in mainstream media

Some 20 people representing the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) rallied last week in front of the CBS News Washington bureau to demand an apology from anchor Dan Rather, CBS member Henry Kissinger and CBS News Middle East correspondent Fouad Ajami.

The protesters, joined by some 40 people carrying banners and chanting slogans, were against "racist comments" made during a panel discussion on June 3 in New York held in conjunction with the Jerusalem Foundation for a \$250,000 plate dinner that raised funds for Israeli immigrants.

The charges of bias surfaced after Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), a media watchdog group, obtained a transcript of the evening's discussions during which Dr. Kissinger reportedly said: "You can't really believe anything an Arab says..."

Lebanese-born Ajami, professor of Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University, was the harshest on Arabs, repeatedly saying that Arabs were incapable of practising democracy. "I've never really wanted elections in any Arab or Muslim country. Among his comments disparaging Arab people was also recount of a reluctantly made trip to a bedouin encampment where "I insisted on only one thing — that I be spared the ceremony of eating with a bedouin."

FAIR complained that Dan Rather, the moderator of the discussion failed to challenge the statements of the panelists. Furthermore, he opened the evening by saying: "Many of us celebrate 25 years after the city (Jerusalem) was united under the Israeli rule."

Speaking of how "we celebrate Jerusalem here tonight, we pray for Jerusalem's survival," the CBS anchor warned that Saddam Hussein and others still dream of leading "a victorious Arab army into Jerusalem." He also warned about an Arab "population explosion" threatening Jerusalem.

Despite, according to FAIR, his unveiled sympathies and biases, Mr. Rather went on to suggest that U.S. mass media are biased against Israel.

FAIR and ADC activists say Mr. Rather's support for the fund-raiser was improper. They note that the Jerusalem Foundation, which was founded by the city's mayor Teddy Kollek, raises money to settle immigrants in East Jerusalem. Both the U.S. government and the United Nations oppose such settlements.

The remarks made at the fund-raiser have been labeled as racist and contemptuous towards Arabs by ADC President Albert Makhber who requested a "public apology from Mssrs. Rather, Kissinger and Ajami."

Mr. Makhber also said, in a letter to CBS News President Eric Ober, that "these racist remarks should not be condoned, especially by persons with such high visibility and in positions of prominence with CBS."

"Certainly if the word 'Arab' or 'bedouin' were replaced with

'Jew,' 'black' or 'Hispanic,' such statements would have been condemned, and rightfully so," the letter said.

Steve Rendall, a senior analyst at FAIR, said: "In dealing with another ethnic group, say Jews or blacks, Kissinger would have taken much more care and Rather would have been much more quick to rise to the challenge."

The controversy-creating event raises, in FAIR's view, questions of journalistic ethics:

— Is it appropriate for a network TV anchor to participate in a partisan fund-raiser on a matter of great controversy and conflict?

— Helping to raise funds for the absorption of new immigrants into Jerusalem is not solely a humanitarian endeavour. It is surrounded by controversy — the kind that network TV news outlets are not supposed to take sides on. The current status of Jerusalem is a subject of major conflict; the U.N. Security Council has repeatedly declared Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem illegal. The U.S. does not recognize the annexation. Would a CBS News anchor have taken part in a fund-raiser for aid projects linked to, for example, the Saudiist government of Nicaragua? asks FAIR.

— What is the responsibility of a network anchor when an ethnic slur is made during a public panel discussion by or about a leader?

Sam Hussein, FAIR associate who researched into the participation of CBS personnel in the Jerusalem Foundation benefit, made an observation which explains, perhaps, the attitude of some media people: "The Kissinger remark, and the failure of Dan Rather and other leading media figures to object, illustrates that racism against Arabs is still widely acceptable in mainstream discourse and mainstream media."

LETTERS

Lest we should forget

To the Editor:

Do you know what the Bosnian Serbs are doing to the Muslim and Croatian Bosnians in Bosnia? They are doing exactly the same thing the Jews did to the Palestinians in 1948.

The Jews of Palestine, with the help of Zionism and world Jewry and being better organised and much better armed than the Palestinians, were able to massacre the latter, frighten them and destroy their homes and villages. In consequence, thousands of Palestinians fled across the borders to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and the Jews replaced them in their homeland.

The Arab states, namely Jordan, Iraq and Syria, came to the rescue only after May 15, 1948, but to no avail as the majority of Palestinian territory was already occupied by the Jewish forces and there were already thousands of refugees living in exile in make-shift tents. In defiance on United Nations-sponsored ceasefires of 1949, the Israeli forces occupied strategic parts of Palestine such as the UN Rashrash village where they founded the port of Eilat.

The world, especially the Western world, condoned the Jewish actions and accepted the fait accompli, namely the replacement of the Palestinian homeland by a Jewish homeland.

So the Bosnian Serbs are simply emulating what the Jews did to the Palestinians in 1948 and 1949. They are killing and expelling Muslim and Croatian Bosnians so as to occupy most of the Bosnian territory and thus control all Bosnia.

Since the Jews succeeded in putting the world before a fait accompli, the Bosnians are trying to do the same. It is hoped that they will not succeed and the Western and Muslim Worlds will stop them.

The purpose of this memorandum is two-fold: First, the international community should not allow the Bosnian Serbs to overrun Bosnia, or most of it. Second, to invigorate the feeble memory of the international community so as to remember what the Jews did to the Palestinians in 1948, in 1949 and thereafter (1967), so as to stop calling the Palestinian resistance fighters terrorists or saboteurs as the right of resistance against the occupier is sacred and recognised under international law.

Pascal B. Karim,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Khreibat, Hadid elected

(Continued from page 1)

vacant with the death in June of Minister Al Hadid, a cousin of the winner in Tuesday's elections.

Voter turnout was about 62 per cent of the 20,500 voters who had collected their voting cards, officials said.

In Madaba, hourly updates on the results of counting showed a

roller-coaster for the three candidates until around 1 a.m. Wednesday when it was established that the Brotherhood had an unbeatable lead.

A total of 21,999 votes were cast in Madaba. Over 26,000 voters had collected their voting cards.

The Fourth District results came in as a surprise to



Women wait outside a polling booth to vote in Tuesday's by-election (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Settlers asked to repay millions

(Continued from page 1)

funds.

Ateret Cohanim, the main settler group in the Old City, has moved 46 families into 35 sites in Arab East Jerusalem in recent years, with backing from the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir.

Ateret Cohanim's activities have angered Palestinians and even some liberal Israelis who complain the settlers are uprooting the traditional separation of the Old City's Muslim, Christian and Jewish quarters.

The settlers argue that Jews should have the right to live anywhere in Jerusalem, while Arabs say they are discriminated against since court rulings prevent their living in the Jewish quarter.

The loans to Ateret Cohanim were approved in 1989 on condition that within two years it submit 100 names of needy people to receive the mortgages, legislator Chaim Oron of the liberal Meretz Bloc said.

But the deadline passed with no names submitted, he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Oron called the loans a trick in which Ateret Cohanim "assumed that the previous government would return in power for eternity and that they would never have to pay back the money."

Ateret Cohanim spokesman Matti Dan said settlers have repaid about one million shekels

Republicans turn up heat

(Continued from page 1)

was debated and adopted Monday.

Citing his devastating attacks on Iraq, his work on the Middle East peace process, and his contribution to the emigration of Ethiopian Jewry, the platform contends that the Bush administration has been good for Israel. And without Mr. Bush, it notes, the equation of Zionism to racism still would be a grotesque stain on the United Nations.

The platform is longer and more detailed than the Middle East plank in the Democratic platform adopted last month. But like the Democratic platform, the Republicans pledged support for maintaining Israel's qualitative military advantage.

There was no direct mention of the friction over the past year between Israel and the U.S. on settlements and loan guarantees, only an offering of "congratulations" to Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker "for a generous package of loan guarantees that will provide new immigrants with needed humanitarian assistance."

Regarding the peace process, the platform states that it must be based on Security Council resolutions 224 and 338.

It says Middle East peace should ultimately include "treaties on security, diplomatic relations, trade, investment, cultural exchange, even tourism."

many who had expected the Brotherhood to put up the strongest showing only two weeks ago. At the same time, the wide margin with which the Brotherhood won in the Madaba seat also surprised many observers.

Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul is scheduled to hold a press conference Wednesday to formally announce the results.

Seasoned Madaba observers detected the following elements in Tuesday's voting:

— The late deputy — Ahmad Qteish Al Azaideh — whose death made the seat vacant, was very popular and this popularity was turned into a gain for the movement's candidate in Tuesday's elections in addition to the fact that Tuesday's winner is from the same tribe and clan as that of the deceased deputy. Tuesday's winner got over 2,000 votes more than the late deputy had won the 1989 elections.

— Votes against the Brotherhood's candidate were split between the two other candidates since they both belonged to different tribes.

Votes of the 3,000-strong Christians appeared to have gone mainly to Mr. Abu Ghanem, a pro-establishment candidate. In the 1989 elections, Mr. Abu Ghanem was seen to have secured

1,600 Christian votes and Mr. Shakhaneh 600. This time almost all votes seemed to have been cast in favour of Mr. Abu Ghanem, although it did not help him win the seat.

— The votes of the 3,000-plus residents of a Palestinian refugee camp were seen to have gone to the Brotherhood.

— Mr. Shakhaneh appeared to have received most of his votes from his Bani Hamida tribe and little from others. This was seen as a reflection of the fact that there is already a Bani Hamida member in the Lower House and rival tribes and clans would not like another Bani Hamida to join the House.

The Brotherhood's victory in Madaba, glorified with Koranic verses beamed through mosque loudspeakers in the town, paled somewhat when seen against its loss in the Fourth District, where the Islamists had appeared assured of the seat.

Many observers believed that since there were six independent candidates in the district, none of them would be able to secure enough votes to beat by the well-organised right-knit fundamentalist group.

But the observers apparently miscalculated, as the results showed. Only 2,443 of the 12,884

votes cast went to four other candidates combined while the rest were divided among the first three.

Observers also expressed surprise that the Brotherhood candidate did not receive the 4,000-plus votes that Hamzeh Mansour received during the 1989 elections.

Many had predicted that tribal links had priority over party affiliation. "This is what defeated Mr. Tahrawi," said one observer. Although Mr. Hadid's victory was seen as an indication of a growing tide towards more pro-establishment and secular politics, the voter apathy — as evident in the limited turnouts — still leaves question marks as to where most Jordanians really belong on the political spectrum.

Qweismeh municipal official Hashem Waked had said that 35,000 voters could go to Tuesday's polls — one third of those registered to vote.

The actual turnout indicates that most of the eligible voters in Qweismeh did not feel strong enough about any of the candidates to go out and vote for him," said one observer after the results were in at about 11:30 p.m.

The by-elections were seen as key indicators of how Jordanians will vote in next year's general elections, when political parties will vie for votes for the first time in over 30 years. Observers now hope that the low voter turnout is not a firm indicator.

Riots

(Continued from page 1)

meant to benefit the two other candidates, Fawaz Abu Ghanem and Abdul Hafith Shakhaneh.

Earlier, at Um Waraqa School, one of the polling stations allocated for female voters, police rounded up around 15 young men and women for alleged trouble-making and vote-rigging, one police officer told reporters.

The officer, who cannot be identified under existing regulations, said that "they (the women) were trying to vote twice and the men were trying to help them in." But the Muslim Brotherhood's women supporters denied the charge and said that policemen harassed and verbally abused them and delayed their entry into the polling centre.

"They are obviously siding with the other candidates and they were the ones to provoke trouble," said a veiled woman referring to the police forces. "They even arrested innocent bystanders who did nothing," she charged.

Some of the supporters of Mr. Abu Ghanem countered that they witnessed some women attempting to vote more than once with false identification cards.

Some observers said the charges against police and officials by Brotherhood supporters appeared to be motivated by fears that their candidate was losing ground.

Jordan, Palestinians hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

to Israel without an Israeli commitment to halt all settlement activities in the occupied territories, have said that they might seek a delay in the talks. They are expected to raise the issue in Wednesday's Damascus meeting.

The Damascus meeting will review the pan-Arab situation, particularly the positions of the Arab states bordering Israel, as well as Egypt, in view of the new developments following Rabin's visit to the U.S., Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Asked whether American clarifications on the issue of loan guarantees were adequate, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "One of the objectives of the Damascus meeting, which has been called for by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, is to review this position in light of the new developments over the last couple of weeks."

"If any of the Arab parties involved, be it the Palestinians, the Syrians or the Jordanians, says that there is a need for further discussions then the situation would be reviewed."

Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters earlier in the day that the Palestinian side had not received any formal clarifications from Washington on the outcome of last week's meeting between Mr. Rabin and President Bush. "There are many important questions to be answered, the most important of which is over a total halt to Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, ... on which the peace process is based."

"We are seeking a unified Arab stand to demand U.S. clarifications on the deal and guarantees of a complete freezing of all settlements on all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, before the start of the Aug. 24 talks," Mr. Abed Rabbo was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"Otherwise, Palestinians at least, would be obliged to 'postpone their participation until they get these guarantees,'" he said. He termed clarifications, given to the Palestinians by U.S. general consul in Jerusalem last week, as "unofficial and very ambiguous."

Dr. Erekat, who returned to Amman from Tunis on Monday after presenting the PLO with U.S. details on the loan issue, said Palestinians reserved the right to know full details of the guarantees.

"They (the U.S.) spoke to us in general terms with no specifics and we believe this affects our life and as Palestinians, we are entitled to have the whole details of the Bush-Rabin agreement," he told Reuters.

Mr. Rabin stopped plans to build what he called "political settlements" after winning general elections in June. The crubs did not cover occupied Jerusalem and

border settlements.

Asked whether Arabs would press for a delay in the Washington talks if they did not receive guarantees, Mr. Hussein said: "We are not going to talk now about something that is going to be discussed tomorrow." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, four Damascus-based PLO factions called on the Palestinians to boycott the next round of peace talks with Israel. In a joint statement telefaxed to the Associated Press, the four factions said the boycott would follow "the recent positions and policies declared by Rabin and the America-Israel agreement to extend loan guarantees."

The four groups are the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Popular Struggle Front.

The DFPLP already had called for a boycott of the peace talks earlier this week, but it was the first time the four factions joined in such a call.

They said the joint boycott call was issued after a meeting of the leadership of the four groups. The statement did not give any details on the meeting or say where it was held.

Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

Hekmatyar, has killed at least 1,000 people, driven thousands from the capital and prompted the evacuation of some United Nations personnel and foreign aid workers.

Kabul resembles a ghost town: once the shelling starts as residents scurry inside their homes for protection from shrapnel. But the bombs do not always provide protection — entire neighborhoods have been wrecked by the shelling.

More than 30 rockets crashed down on the joint civilian and military airport overnight Monday and early Tuesday, killing one militiaman and wounding six others. They had been guarding the deserted terminal.

State-run Radio Afghanistan announced Monday night that Hekmatyar had been expelled from the three-month-old Islamic interim government.

But Mr. Hekmatyar said he could not be ejected from the interim government — a leadership council comprised of the 10 rebel chiefs who fought to oust the communist government and transform Afghanistan into an Islamic state. Mr. Hekmatyar's comments were issued by his Pakistan-based Afghan News Agency.

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THE Daily Crossword by Robert Lieblich

ACROSS

- 1 Personage
- 6 Showed sorrow
- 14 Megnon
- 15 JUII
- 15 Celerity
- 16 Urane
- 16 silection?
- 17 Places of prayer
- 19 Avail
- 20 Burn the outside
- 21 Couple missiles
- 22 Analyze
- grammatically
- 24 Golf rite
- 25 Cover and waltz
- 27 Holmes' sidewalk
- 30 Part of a diocese
- 32 Playing marble
- 33 Detection device
- 34 — rummy
- 37 Geni
- 38 Confidence game
- 39 Set of stars
- 40 Pipe joint
- 41 Mite or mill and
- 42 Is of the opinion
- 43 Bernie
- 44 Answer by searching
- 45 Prayer leader
- 46 Discontent
- 47 Respond
- 49 Answered
- 52 1052
- 56 Curve segment
- 67 Sacred site in Nazareth
- 68 Thirtieth of an inch
- 69 Unevenly edged
- 72 Int. Fr.
- 83 Bishop's jurisdiction
- 84 Fumed
- 85 Kids

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30-40/82

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Celebration of the Eucharist
- 2 Wings
- 3 Vest of 1482
- 30 Almi
- 31 — of Cleves
- 33 Porcino
- 35 Unemployed
- 36 Set of tables
- 38 Prank or fog
- 39 Bar mitzvah
- 41 Sparsacaster's helper
- 42 Prater hat
- 44 And so on, abor.
- 45 Loose color
- 48 Suffs
- 48 Rubbed smooth
- 50 Air pollution
- 51 Church part
- 53 Church
- 54 Concerning
- 55 Achernas; suff.
- 59 Geriatric

Financial Markets

Amman Financial Market
In co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	17/8/92	18/8/92
Swiss Franc	1.9250	1.9275
Deutsche Mark	2.7445	2.7455
French Franc	1.9155	1.9155
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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 661170
ORGANIZED MARKET INDEX: 1249 FOR TUESDAY 18/08/1992
MARKING SESSION

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN EGYPT BANK	11,294	2,090	2,140
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,211	2,150	2,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	15,961	2,250	2,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	88,794	1,240	1,250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	171,362	1,270	1,290
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	42,952	3,310	3,360
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	492,789	4,360	4,430
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	79,520	115,100	117,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	160,670	2,750	2,750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	42,458	4,410	4,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	4,323	2,290	2,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	283,470	1,770	1,780
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	495	0,990	0,990
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	9,675	0,930	0,950
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	7,920	0,550	0,660
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,150	1,150	1,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,111	1,470	1,480
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,910	2,410	2,420
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	7,074	7,340	7,400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	26,441	9,250	9,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	2,570	9,750	9,710
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	452,890	5,150	5,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	7,792	6,520	6,450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	8,352	3,970	3,950
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	3,259	8,800	8,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	3,250	0,720	0,710
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	6,503	3,560	3,460
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	10,240	2,400	2,700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	48,276	3,070	3,100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	516	3,420	3,450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,323	2,940	2,940
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	6,417	6,000	6,000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	64,879	3,690	3,650
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	10,947	1,290	1,300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	9,616	0,820	0,820
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	40,891	4,770	4,800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	46,884	2,140	2,150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & FINANCE	9,999	8,000	8,000

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks tumbled in light volume, deflating recent optimism that the market was poised for a recovery from its summer slide. The FTSE-100 shares index fell 21.4 points to 2,354.7 on volume of just 360 million shares.

FRANKFURT — German shares more than wiped out two hesitant days of gains with a 1.4 per cent fall, dashing market hopes that prices had found a floor and renewing fears of a further slide to new 1992 lows. The 30-share DAX index fell 22.20 points to 1,533.22.

PARIS — Weak French bond prices, a falling dollar and unease over Tokyo's startling 4.15 per cent overnight drop all helped knock French blue chips down 1.17 per cent, dealers said. The blue chip CAC-40 index slipped 20.59 points to end at 1,736.72.

ZURICH — Swiss shares regained some ground lost in the morning session, but still ended lower in slack trading. Plunging Tokyo share prices and subsequent falls on European houses, notably Frankfurt, pulled Swiss share prices down. The SPI all-share index fell 10.5 points, or 0.93 per cent, to 1,114.3, after a low at 1,112.7. The SMI index of leading shares ended down 11.6 points, or 0.64 per cent at 1,788.6.

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Tokyo stock prices drop to lowest level in 77 months

TOKYO (R) — Plunging Tokyo share prices sent a nervous ripple through Asian markets Tuesday and the yen weakened against the dollar amid renewed worries over Japan's faltering economy.

The key 225-share Nikkei average tumbled to another 77-month closing low, down 620.14 points or 4.15 per cent to 14,309.41.

With turnover thin, a sharp fall by high-tech issues on worries about poor earnings dragged the whole market lower, brokers said.

At a hastily convened news conference after the market closed, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata voiced fears of a downward share price spiral and urged institutional investors to refrain from selling off stocks in a quest for "easy" profits to boost their financial results.

He announced several measures aimed at reassuring investors, including lifting restraints on dividend payments and allowing banks to reinforce their balance sheets.

Mr. Hata said the measures outlined Tuesday were part of a government package of stimulative measures promised by the end of the month.

"(But) investors worry the government can only do so much, and pushing up corporate profits is not one of them," said Daniel Marull of Sanyo Securities.

"The finance ministry still has not drawn a line in the sand and said it will fight the economy's slowdown to the last drop of blood," a Japanese brokerage analyst said. "There is really no good reason why stocks should stop falling at this level."

The dollar ended firmer against the yen in Tokyo as the Nikkei's plunge invited speculative and stop-loss yen sales.

"Posting a very low (in share prices) had a very negative impact on the yen," said Seiji Saito, chief dealer at Hokkaido Takushoku Bank in Tokyo.

The dollar ended at 126.18 yen and 1.4613 marks in Tokyo at 0630 GMT against 125.80 and 1.4644 closes in New York Monday.

Amman becomes Mideast hub for Société Générale

By Samir Shafiq
Special to Jordan Times

AMMAN — Out of about ten foreign banks which had set up representative offices in Amman during the 1970s and the 80s, only one remains active as the rest have either closed

Georgian tanks roll into Sakhum

SUKHUMI, Georgia (R) — Georgia sent troops and tanks into the capital of its breakaway region of Abkhazia Tuesday to crush resistance by nationalist rebels.

From an apartment on Kirov Street in the centre of the Black Sea resort, eyewitnesses watched Georgian tanks and armoured personnel carriers roll past for at least half an hour beginning shortly after midday (0800 GMT).

Sporadic machine gun volleys and cannon shots could be heard as Georgian troops fired to disperse passers-by and wipe out isolated Abkhazian snipers.

The show of force followed a Georgian ultimatum Monday demanding the resignation of Abkhazia's parliament leader Vladislav Ardzinba.

Mr. Ardzinba, who angered Georgian authorities by pushing a declaration of independence through parliament last month, has shown no sign of stepping down.

Frightened residents took refuge in their homes in anticipation of the troop advance.

"They will kill us all. I wonder what are they doing in this peaceful district," said Anna, the elderly Russian owner of the apartment.

She broke down in tears as the Georgian column rolled past. At least six tanks and one armoured vehicle could be seen from the first floor window.

Poorly-trained and ill-equipped Abkhazian irregulars are concentrated in northern Sukhumi but stand little chance of mounting serious resistance.

The crisis over Abkhazia is the worst to confront Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze since he took power in the former Soviet republic last March.

The Russian News Agency Interfax said five people had been killed during the Georgian advance, but there was no independent confirmation.

Another agency, NEGA, reported that the troops had lowered the Abkhazian flag over the Sukhumi parliament building and raised the maroon Georgian flag in its place.

Earlier, Georgian tanks and armoured vehicles moved into position on the southern outskirts of Sukhumi. Some of the troops warned reporters to stay out of the city.

"You guys ought to stay away from Sukhumi. It's going to be a bloody mess there today," one soldier said.

Mr. Shevardnadze sent troops into Abkhazia last week to hunt

out rebels who had kidnapped a dozen Georgian officials, including his interior minister. All but three of the hostages have now been released.

Fighting between troops and Abkhazian nationalists broke out and the death toll had climbed by Monday to more than 50.

Georgia withdrew its forces from Sukhumi under a weekend ceasefire accord. The decision to send them back in Tuesday showed that Georgian patience had snapped after several days of fruitless negotiations with Abkhazian officials.

The city looked deserted, with windows shattered and most shops closed. A few people stood in line from early morning to buy bread.

Many Abkhazians and thousands of Russian holidaymakers have fled in the past few days.

Journalists in Tbilisi quipped Abkhazian first Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Bagapsh as saying he expected Georgian troops to impose a curfew.

He said five Abkhazians were killed in exchanges of fire overnight in Gumi, a Sukhumi suburb. Bagapsh said six people were killed when a rocket fired

by a Georgian MiG-24 military helicopter hit a residential building.

Most Abkhazian officials have fled the government building in Sukhumi, where a weary-looking Bagapsh remained Tuesday with only a couple of aides.

"We are waiting. I will send all my aides away and stay in this building whatever happens. Our forces are concentrating in the northern outskirts of the city. We shall meet the Georgians there," he said, refusing to answer further questions.

Georgia, which borders Russia, Turkey and the warring Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, has been torn for the past year by political and ethnic conflicts.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the former president, was toppled from power last January after a violent uprising.

Mr. Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister and arch-rival of Mr. Gamsakhurdia, has fought a tough battle to restore order and national unity.

On Monday he told Georgians to be ready to fight "forces of evil" — his term for Mr. Gamsakhurdia supporters who are mainly concentrated in the west of the country and Abkhazia.

Yeltsin: troops to leave Pacific islands

TOKYO (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has told Japanese television he is ready to withdraw all troops by 1995 from four Pacific islands claimed by Japan, a network spokesman said Tuesday.

Yeltsin said in an interview he would offer to demilitarise the islands, which lie just off Japan's northern coast, within three years when he visits Tokyo in mid-September, the Nippon Television Network (NTV) spokesman said.

"The president said he would sign an agreement in Tokyo promising the withdrawal of all troops from the disputed islands much sooner than expected," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin's two-hour interview, recorded Sunday at the Black Sea resort of Sochi, will be broadcast in Japan Wednesday.

During a visit to Japan last year, then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev pledged to begin pulling out troops from the islands, which Moscow calls the Southern Kuriles and Tokyo the Northern Territories.

They were seized from Japan by the Soviet army in the closing days of World War II.

After Gorbachev's pledge, Russian officials said the plan was to withdraw the troops, estimated by Western defence analysts to number about 20,000, over about 10 years.

The islands dispute, now almost half a century old, has prevented Moscow and Tokyo signing a peace treaty formally ending World War II hostilities.

Japan has flatly refused Russian appeals for urgent aid and investment until conclusion of such a treaty.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose radical market reforms are under pressure at home, told NTV he hoped to resolve the dispute during his Sept. 13-16 Tokyo visit, but gave no details, the spokesman said.

Although Russia's military establishment has implacably opposed the return of the islands, Mr. Yeltsin said Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev had approved the demilitarisation plan.

"I drew up the plan with Minister Grachev and I can say that all troops will be withdrawn by mid-1995," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying.

The daily Yomiuri Shimbun said Tuesday that Japan was preparing to set up a fund worth 50 billion yen (\$397 million) to promote intellectual and technological exchange between Japan, Europe and the former Soviet Union.

NEW DELHI (R) — India test-launched a medium-range missile Tuesday just before top officials met Pakistani counterparts for talks on reducing severe tension between the two old enemies.

Indian news agency said the surface-to-surface Prithvi missile, which has a range of 250 kilometres, was launched from India's main test site at Chandipur-On-Sea, in the eastern state of Orissa on the Bay of Bengal.

The Press Trust of India quoted officials sources as describing the test as successful. It was at least the fifth test of the Prithvi, which the Defence Ministry describes as a tactical battlefield support weapon.

If and when the missile is deployed, much of Pakistan would fall within its range.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over disputed Kashmir, the source of fresh tension since a

Pretoria accepts U.N. report on violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government accepted a U.N. report on ways to end township violence, saying Tuesday it would welcome the stationing of observers in the country.

"The resolution is acceptable in its main components. Blame is not apportioned to any party. Evenhandedness is maintained," Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said in a statement.

"The need is emphasised to strengthen South African structures such as the national peace accord. So is the importance of cooperation of all parties in the resumption of the negotiation process as speedily as possible," Mr. Botha added.

The U.N. Security Council has unanimously authorised the stationing of U.N. observers in South Africa to help end township violence which has claimed some 6,000 lives since 1990.

The world body left it open to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to decide how many should be sent.

In a report published on Aug. 7, U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance recommended about 30 observers be sent to South Africa to work closely with the National Peace Secretariat, set up under a national peace accord signed last Sept. by 24 groups including the government, the African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha Freedom Party.

The ANC said it would welcome more than 400 observers to monitor township violence. Without specifying a figure, Mr. Botha said his government was prepared to accept a larger presence of U.N. monitors.

Mr. Vance headed a mission to South Africa last month to recommend ways of ending the violence and creating conditions for a resumption of negotiations for a democratic, non-racial, united country.

In his report, he also called on other organisations such as the Commonwealth, Organisation of African Unity and European Community to send observers.

Mr. Botha said Pretoria had no objection to such organisations sending observers so long as they operated within the national

peace accord.

"We have no objection in principle, provided that the numbers involved are reasonable and that they will closely associate with our internal structures," he said.

The U.N. recently sent 10 observers to cover a week of mass demonstrations by the ANC and its allies to pressure the white government to end violence and commit itself to majority rule.

A democracy forum called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) collapsed in June when the ANC and its allies pulled out in protest against township killings, particularly the massacre of 43 blacks in Boipatong township south of Johannesburg.

Eight people were killed in South African township violence overnight, pushing the weekend death toll to 25, police said Monday.

The 25 included four policemen shot and hacked to death by unknown gunmen in the nominally independent homeland of Ciskei and a baby killed by a hand grenade hurled into a house in the Natal province township of Boboyi.

Eleven died in Natal province townships and 14 in black settlements surrounding the Johannesburg industrial belt.

Meanwhile, the African National Congress claims the white government wants an amnesty for its security forces because top officials have been involved in political crimes.

Rejecting government proposals for a blanket amnesty, the main black opposition group said an amnesty could perpetuate rather than end the political violence that has claimed thousands of lives.

"The sudden promotion by senior government officials of the concept of a general amnesty clearly relates to accumulating evidence of senior ministerial and security force involvement in assassinations and violence," the ANC said in a statement Monday night.

The ANC was responding to a government call last week for a blanket amnesty for all members of the security forces and black resistance groups for any politically motivated offenses.

COLUMN 80000

Female nurse turns out to be a man

CAIRO (AP) — It appeared a routine job for a policeman. A suspect was caught red-handed with some hashish, and all that had to be done was refer the case to the prosecution. But it was not that simple. The suspect, a nurse, was dressed as a woman and carried an identity card with a female name. But investigation showed that the suspect was a 34-year-old man and not the woman who had worked as a female nurse for the past 18 years, according to the newspaper Al-Ahram. A medical report confirmed police suspicion saying the suspect "is a man with full characteristics of a male." There was an explanation about why the suspect held on to the false claim of being a female, and how he managed to pass for a woman during 18 years.

Princess Diana urges sympathy for addicts

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Princess Diana has urged people not to judge alcoholics and drug addicts. Speaking to the 36th International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Princess Diana said addicts are often highly sensitive and creative people. "Sadly, many people still regard addicts as a moral weakness. A number of these self-appointed moralists even choose to make such judgements from behind a cloud of cigarette smoke," said the 31-year-old princess. Princess Diana, whose husband is Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, said people with lively imaginations often hide in fantasy for protection from the world. "Imaginative children lose themselves in fantasy worlds through stories. Later they might choose to escape through ecstasy, uppers, alcohol and addiction," she said.

Busy bees hiving off the booby bees

SYDNEY (R) — Australian scientists seeking to boost honey production have found that some bees are getting so drunk on fermented nectar they cannot find their way home. Those who do make it back to the hive may well be turned away by the guard bees at the door or suffer hangovers. According to Dr. Errol Hassan, a senior lecturer at the University of Queensland, Dr. Hassan said European strains of bees could become inebriated from drinking fermented nectar during the spring and summer. "After drinking fermented nectar many bees can't find their way back or crash into trees or drown in dams," he said.

'Trade union' engages in monkey business

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutch pressure group claims to have founded the world's first trade union for monkeys. The Leiden-based pro-primates group said it has already brought at least one monkey "employer" to a state-owned laboratory — to the negotiating table. It uses trade union techniques to negotiate better living conditions for about 1,600 primates in laboratories and zoos. Although monkeys cannot go on strike, founder Ignas Spruit said publicity was an effective weapon. "No one else is defending them... sometimes it's a matter of life and death," said Mr. Spruit, a biologist.

Mystery film sparks Loch Ness speculation

LONDON (R) — An amateur video film shot at Loch Ness in Scotland prompted speculation Monday that something may indeed be stirring in the waters many believe are home to a monster. Britain's independent television news (ITN) showed pictures of an indeterminate shape moving around in the grey waters of Loch Ness and quoted experts as saying they were amazed. Various "sightings" over the years have fuelled the myth of the Loch Ness monster, popularly known as "Nessie," but there has been no hard evidence to prove or disprove that a throwback from prehistoric times is lurking in Britain's deepest lake. A scientific expedition last month reported that its sonar equipment had recorded a significant blip, but experts were unable to say what it was. ITN Monday quoted zoologist Peter Meadows as saying: "I'm amazed by what I see. I haven't seen anything like it. I think it's very unusual and I can't see an easy interpretation. But it might well be a large living creature." Other experts said the video may just show a freak wave or the wake of a boat.

Convoy of women, children leaves Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Nearly 1,000 mostly Serb women, children and elderly people were evacuated from Sarajevo Tuesday, the second exodus of non-combatants from the besieged Bosnian capital in less than a week.

Friends and relatives choked with emotion as the evacuees pulled away en route to Belgrade from the ruins of the city's bus station, a frequent target of mortar and heavy machine gun fire.

Officials from the Children's Embassy, a local charity, said 960 persons were in a convoy of buses and cars which left the centre of Sarajevo just after 10 a.m. (0800 GMT).

United Nations armoured personnel carriers escorted the convoy out of the city.

"Our lists show 22 per cent of the people are now-Serbs, including both Muslims and Croats," said Sabaheta Press of the Children's Embassy.

She said about 70 per cent of those leaving Tuesday were children and confirmed that necessary Serb, Croat and Muslim permissions had been received for the convoy to pass through ethnic lines which define the battlefield in war-ravaged Bosnia.

Mostly Muslim women and children were evacuated from Sarajevo by the charity last week. More than 300 people went by bus to Split, and from there to Slovenia and Austria, without incident.

A German attempt to evacuate children three weeks ago ended in tragedy when two were shot dead by a sniper on their way out of the city.



A Serb fighter tosses a grenade into a house during fighting in a Bosnian town

Sarajevo airport closed

Meanwhile, U.N. authorities closed Sarajevo Airport Tuesday after gunners menaced a British Air Force cargo plane, during take off, a senior U.N. source said.

He said the incident was being evaluated at U.N. headquarters in New York and could lead to an air strike against the gun position, suspected of belonging to rebel Serbs besieging Sarajevo.

The attackers "locked onto" the aircraft with target-seeking radar and probably fired on it, he said.

"The plane fired flares and chaff to evade fire but was 'locked onto' again," the source, who declined to be identified, added.

"As it was manoeuvring, the crew thought they were fired upon by 20mm anti-aircraft cannon."

Five people were killed and eight injured when mortar bombs set ablaze a six-story hotel housing refugees in the heart of Sarajevo.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency attributed the Monday night attack on Serb forces. Serb commanders in the area denied the report.

The fire destroyed the top three floors of the Hotel Europa in Sarajevo's old town centre but

it was extinguished by dawn. The floors were a mess, with water seeping down the building.

Four of the dead were refugees and one was a policeman who tried to help get the 800 refugees out.

It was the latest in a string of civilian tragedies in the four-month-old war in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Most of the refugees spent the night huddled in doorways and other nearby places and some began drifting back in the morning in the hope of salvaging belongings from the hotel.

Tanjug reported that Serb forces launched the attack after rival Muslim forces opened fire with artillery on the Bosnian Serb base at Pale on the outskirts of Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic denied the Tanjug report.

Muslim sources took credit for the attack on Pale, local journalists said, and U.N. peace troops said the Muslim forces certainly had a weapon powerful enough to reach the suburb from their positions in the besieged city.

The Bosnian Serb military command later issued a statement accusing Muslims of staging both the attack on Pale and the shelling of targets in central Sarajevo.

'Over 2,000 foreigners were sent to Stalin camps'

MOSCOW (R) — More than 2,000 foreigners were imprisoned in the Siberian Gulag during Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's reign of terror, Russia's Security Ministry said Tuesday.

They came from 31 countries, a ministry official said, describing the total of foreign prisoners as the highest yet revealed.

Among the foreigners were two Britons, 501 Bulgarians, 29 Hungarians, 116 Germans and 155 Mongolians, Major-General Anatoly Kravyskin of the ministry's directorate told a news conference.

Stalin's secret police had listed foreign prisoners in their secret archives, being reexamined since the Soviet collapse.

"Overall, the number of people who suffered from the purges is significantly higher than has been revealed to the media until now," he said.

Many foreign socialists settled in the Soviet Union in the years immediately after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, to help build communism.

But they were viewed with growing suspicion as Moscow's leaders closed their country off from the outside world at the end of the 1920s. After that, foreigners were stranded in a country gripped by growing fear and paranoia.

Stalin's three-decade rule ended in 1953. It saw the virtual annihilation of whole sections of society in purges, deportations, the brutal collectivisation of agriculture and ruthless suppression of intellectual and nationalist dissent.

Millions of people who fell foul of the "man of steel" were sent to a grim network of labour camps stretching through the remote Siberian forests.

Allen admits affair with Farrow's adopted daughter

NEW YORK (R) — It could be one of Woody Allen's films but it's really his life.

The 56-year-old filmmaker admitted Monday he is having a love affair with the 21-year-old adopted daughter of Mia Farrow, his companion and collaborator for 12 years.

The normally reclusive Allen said in a statement that he was in love with Soon-Yi Previn, whom Farrow adopted in the 1970s with her then husband, conductor, Andre Previn.

"Regarding my love for Soon-Yi: It's real and happily all true," Allen's statement said, after New York newspapers reported Monday that the affair may have been the last straw in what had been the love relationship between Allen and Farrow, 47.

The two never married and live in separate apartments on opposite sides of New York's Central Park.

In his 1979 film, *Manhattan*, Allen played a 42-year-old writer having an affair with a 17-year-old high school student played by Mariel Hemingway. In the film he had no relationship, however, with the girl's mother.

On Thursday Allen filed suit in state court in Manhattan seeking custody of his son with Farrow, Satchel, 4, and two children they adopted together, Moses, 14, and daughter Dylan, 7.

Those children and at least six others live with the actress, who has 11 children altogether and is reportedly considering adopting two more.

In his statement, Allen said Korean-born Soon-Yi is a "lovely, intelligent, sensitive woman who has and continues to turn around my life in a wonderfully positive way. My relationship with her has no bearing whatsoever on my present application for custody of my three children. They are totally separate issues."

Allen said going to court in the custody issue was not his preferred course but became his only alternative after trying to work out the details privately.

Lawyers specialising in child custody said the unusual situation with Farrow and Previn might make it hard for Allen to win the custody case. A court date is scheduled for next week.

Allen wasn't disclosing much. "I have much more to say about this matter but would prefer not to have to discuss it anywhere but before a judge," he said in the two-paragraph statement.

The other parties in the case either were not commenting or were unavailable.

Allen's films often revolve around love, family situations and the angst of upper-middle-class life in New York.

Soon-Yi is attending a summer programme at a private liberal



Woody Allen

arts college in New Jersey, the New York Post reported Monday.

Allen and Farrow spent nearly 13 years together and collaborated on 13 films, many of which have won good reviews.

Among some of the best-known movies they made together were *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy* (1982), about the tangled love interests of a group of friends on a turn-of-the-century country outing, and *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), a complex tale of three sisters and their lovers.

His 1977 film, *Annie Hall*, starring former lover and collaborator Dianne Keaton, won Allen three Academy Awards — for best picture, best director and a shared screenwriting credit.

Farrow had three children with Previn. She previously married, at age 21, Frank Sinatra, then 50. Allen, who met Farrow in 1979, is also twice divorced.

Clinton blistered by Republicans at Houston convention

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Democratic presidential challenger Bill Clinton said he expected a barrage of attacks from the Republican convention — and he was right.

The Republicans used day one of their four-day convention in Houston to reel off a litany of what they see as Mr. Clinton's deficiencies: Too inexperienced, took skill and guile of dodging the Vietnam-era draft.

"This is not the time for on-the-job training for an amateur," Indiana Senator Richard Lugar said in a typical remark.

Added conservative Pat Buchanan: While President George Bush signed up at 17 to become a World War II fighter pilot, Mr. Clinton "sat up in a dormitory in Oxford, England, and figured out how to dodge the draft."

The delegates cheered, "where was Bill?"

"Which of these two men has won the normal authority to call on Americans to put their lives at risk? I suggest, respectfully, it is the patriot and war hero, Navy Lieutenant J.G. George Herbert Lientaunt Bush," said Mr. Buchanan, who had a draft deferment during the Vietnam War because of an arthritic condition.

Republicans served notice they will make a campaign issue of Mr. Clinton's avoidance of the military during the Vietnam War. Assistant Republican Senate

leader Alan Simpson of Wyoming told cheering Republican delegates that the party would be talking about Mr. Clinton's draft deferment while he was a Rhodes scholar in the late 1960s after he completed his four-year undergraduate at Georgetown University.

"We'll be talking about a man who quit school to go to fight for his country and one who went to school to avoid fighting for it," he said. "And 27 million of us proud Americans veterans won't forget that one."

"And we'll be talking about an absolutely ambitious young man who at the age of 23 wrote a letter about his draft status," Sen. Simpson said, referring to a letter Mr. Clinton wrote in 1969 to his military recruiter explaining his opposition to the war.

"Please hear why he said he did what he did," Sen. Simpson said. "To maintain my political viability."

With a sneer, the Wyoming senator told the audience: "What cynicism at 23. And the target question over the next 79 days is, how many other times did you sell your soul to maintain your political viability?"

He was not alone in raising the draft issue — a subject the Democrats raised in 1988 against Vice President Dan Quayle, who served in the National Guard during the south east Asian conflict.

Mr. Clinton has worked hard to demonstrate he has what he calls the vision and imagination to lead the United States in the post-cold war world. But trying to top Mr. Bush's long resume in foreign affairs is not an easy task, so he took a different path on the opening day of the Republican convention.

"Ronald Reagan... had less foreign policy experience, even in international economics, than I do at this point in my career when he became president," Mr. Clinton told CBS in an interview from the government's mansion in Little Rock.

Mr. Clinton accused the Republicans of using the charge "since they can't run on their record." Nevertheless, the Arkansas governor has had to answer that question repeatedly on the campaign trail.

But of all the cracks he has had to take on his foreign policy experience the one from one-time presidential hopeful Buchanan may have been the most scorching.

Mr. Clinton's experience in foreign policy, he told convention delegates "is pretty much confined to having had breakfast once at the international house of pancakes."

Beside the question of foreign policy experience, Mr. Clinton is still being dogged with the "character" question and Republicans seem intent on keeping those questions front and centre in the

November presidential race despite Mr. Bush's promise to stay out of the "sleaze business."

U.S. Treasurer Casandra Villalpando, in comments made to the New Jersey delegation to the Republican convention, called Mr. Clinton and Henry Cisneros, the former San Antonio mayor who has since joined the Clinton team, "skirt-chasers."

Mr. Bush campaign chairman Robert M. Mosbacher, the former commerce secretary, was quoted as saying that a yardstick to measure Mr. Clinton's candidacy is the allegation by former Arkansas state employee Gennifer Flowers that she had a long affair with the Democratic nominee.

Ms. Villalpando, whose signature appears on U.S. currency notes, apologised for the remark she made but Mr. Mosbacher said his comments had been taken out of context, adding: "I regret that to some my comments suggested I was raising questions about Governor Clinton's private life. I was not."

Mr. Clinton has denied that allegation and the remarks led his spokesman George Stephanopoulos to call on Mr. Bush to fire the two.

While Mr. Clinton has kept a low profile this week, he makes an appearance Thursday with former President Jimmy Carter who has become increasingly more popular since leaving the White House as a one-term president